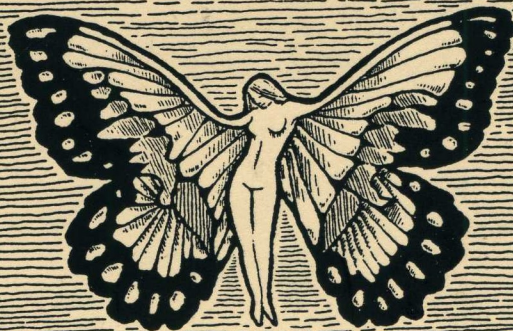
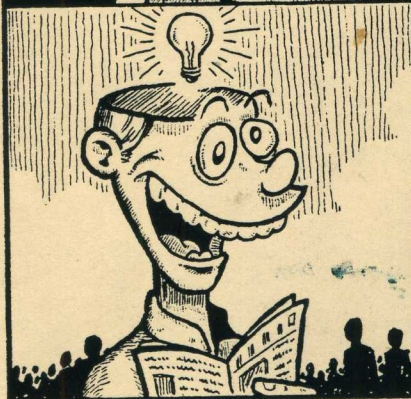
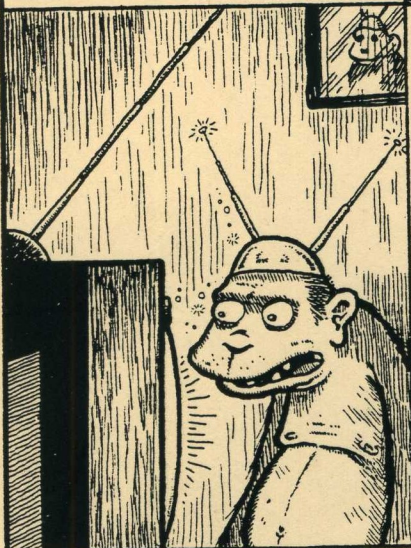


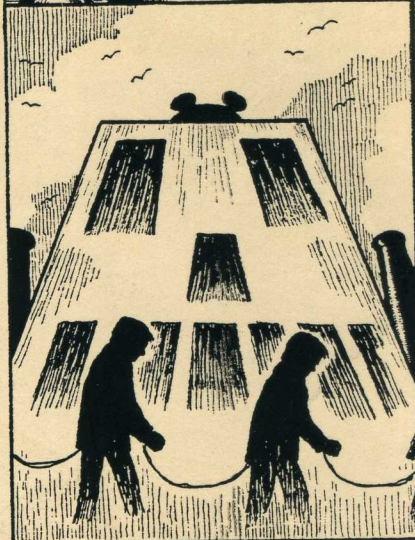
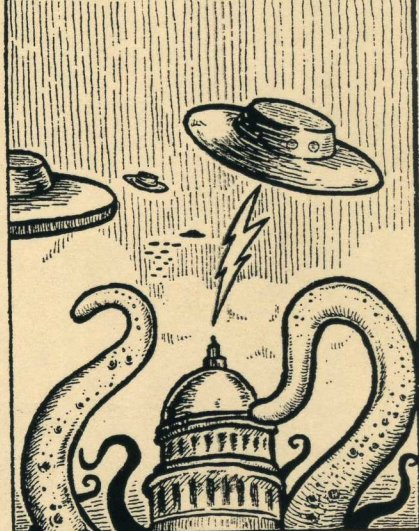
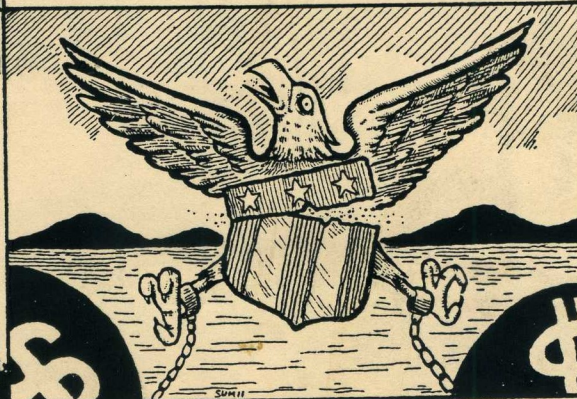
Also Known As
ZINE WORLD



**Free Speech is
for Everyone!**



**A Reader's
Guide to the
Underground
Press #17**



\$4 \$5

United States Canada

ZINE WORLD

editor's note & last minute announcements

In **Zine World** #10, publisher Doug Holland declared that he planned to change the name of our zine. He wanted a name that was more inclusive, to bring in more self-published materials and independent media. He also was dissatisfied with the co-opting of the word "zine" that had occurred, both in mainstream media and on-line. The name he eventually chose was, of course, **A Reader's Guide to the Underground Press**.

I certainly think there was validity in Doug's reasoning, but for most of us involved with the zine, the name never really stuck. It was a functional title; it didn't capture the spirit or passion behind our publication. Nor did it manage to garner us a substantial increase in unusual, self-created (non-zine) material.

After much consideration, we have decided to restore the name **Zine World** to our publication. We think it is more true to our spirit. (Besides, well, it's so damn catchy.) Moreover, I think it is up to us, we zine publishers to define and demonstrate what the word "zine" means. We can give it away to the on-line world, or we can keep it ours.

We at **Zine World** remain committed to championing independent media, whether words or art, in print or audio/video, zine or other. We remain dedicated to informing our readers about matters not commonly discussed in mainstream media and about publications not found on most bookstore shelves.

However, we have decided to discontinue our reviewing of on-line material (e-zines and websites), because of a lack of interest among our volunteer reviewers and our readers. It is our belief that these items can be found easily enough by those who are interested in them. This will be the last issue in which they appear.

If you believe in what we at **Zine World** are doing, we could use your support – I mean, we could *really* use your support. This publication rarely breaks even and has faced increased and unexpected costs with our recent move. When necessary, your lovely publisher has paid extra expenses out of her own pocket, but recent financial hardships have made this impossible for the time being.

We want to keep this zine as affordable as possible, and so we are reluctant to raise the cover price. Lately, though, it's been a struggle just to find the money to keep up with printing and postage costs. Effective immediately, all orders and subscriptions for **Zine World** will be sent via media mail. This can sometimes take longer for delivery but usually takes a week. Compelled for First Class delivery? Our First Class subscription rate (4 issues) will be \$18. (Current subscribers: To upgrade to First Class, please send \$1 per issue remaining on your subscription. Your envelope label shows the status of your subscription.)

If you have as strong a passion for the independent press as we do and find yourself in a better financial position than us, I hope you will consider making a donation to our zine. Even including an extra buck or a few stamps when sending an order or submitting something for review is helpful. For those of you who can give more, we announce our new lifetime subscription option: Contribute \$100 or more to our zine, and **Zine World** will come to your mailbox as long as we continue to publish it. Donations of cash and stamps are encouraged; we cannot accept checks, but money orders can be sent, payable to Jerianne.

Please note, Part 3 of Fred Woodworth's essay, "Pulling the Strings: How Businesses and Institutions Attempt to Control the Small Press" was scheduled to run in this issue but was held to make space for more time-sensitive articles. It will appear in #18.

The Underground Publishing Conference will be held in Bowling Green, Ohio, on June 22-23. For more information please visit www.clamormagazine.org or write to Become The Media, PO Box 1225, Bowling Green OH 43402.

Also, please note that Beantown Zinetown will be held March 23-24. Additional info can be found in Upcoming Events, page 65.

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ABOUT ZINE WORLD

If you are not fully satisfied with *Zine World*, *tough shit*. Subscribing, buying an ad, enclosing a nice letter, or giving *our* zine a good review in *your* zine does not entitle you to a good review, and hurt feelings do not entitle you to a refund. We don't do refunds.

Zine World is published by an all-volunteer staff. The people who put this zine together work hard for no pay. If you believe in what we're doing, show us your support. Your donations of cash/stamps or volunteering your time will help us continue publishing this zine in a timely fashion.

If you'd like to write or illustrate for ZW: ARG, we'd love to have you - just get in touch. To audition as a reviewer, send us five reviews in our format and style. If you've got what it takes, we'll get back to you pronto.

"He could have been, he always felt, such a ruthless critic and satirist, such a violent, unscrupulous polemical writer. And if ever he committed his autobiography to paper, how breath-takingly intimate, how naked - naked without so much as a

healthy sunburn to colour the whiteness - how quiveringly a sensitive jelly it would be! All the things he had never told anyone would be in it. Confessions at long range - if anything, it would be rather agreeable." - *Aldous Huxley, Antic Hay*

ZINE WORLD: A READER'S GUIDE TO THE UNDERGROUND PRESS

NO. 17 FALL 2001/WINTER 2002

PO Box 330156

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If you're saying to yourself, that's a heckofa good price, you're right. We've tried to keep *Zine World* accessible and affordable to anyone, but if you appreciate what we're doing, and if you can afford it, it's not against the rules to send more. *This is an all-volunteer effort, put together by poor people, and we're doing it without any grants, sponsorships, or trust funds. End of pledge break.*

SUBSCRIPTION - \$14 for four issues, postpaid, US; \$18 Canada & Mexico; \$22 elsewhere.

All copies are mailed via media mail within North America, or via surface mail overseas. For a First Class US subscription, send \$18. For overseas subscriptions via Air Mail, send \$36. *Sorry, no checks.*



REGARDING CHECKS AND MONEY ORDERS

Sorry, we can't take checks. *Zine World* is not a business, and like most non-mainstream publications, we don't have a bank account. We cannot afford to pay exorbitant fees for bounced checks. Most of the publications reviewed in *Zine World* have similar policies - transactions for underground materials are almost *always* conducted with cash. *Please send well-wrapped American cash, stamps, IRCs, or money orders with "pay to the order of" left blank.*

WHAT'S A ZINE?

Zines are publications done for the love of doing them, not to make a profit or a living. Most zines are photocopied. Some are printed offset like a magazine, but with a print run of hundreds or possibly thousands instead of hundreds of thousands or more. In a zine, you might find typos, misspelled words, improper grammar, and brilliant or radical or just plain honest ideas that simply aren't allowed in *Time*, *Newsweek*, or *People Magazine*.

Zines are different from e-zines, which are "zines" published on the internet, via personal web pages or email lists. More and more, both "zines" and "e-zines" are used to describe these electronic publications. We review both types of publications, but there are significant differences between the two genres, and we choose to retain the distinction. When ZW: ARG says "zine," we mean something on paper.

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- *Zine World* accepts no responsibility for anything whatsoever. We try our darndest, but listed addresses may be mistaken, publications ordered may never come, and you might cut your finger while opening an envelope. Live life at your own peril. We review any and all kinds of material, including things which may be utterly abhorrent to you (or us). Publishing a review does not imply that ZW: ARG or any member of our staff endorses the ideas and/or ideals contained in any publication. That would be silly.

WHOLESALE & DISTRIBUTION:

- We welcome wholesale inquiries from better bookstores, zine stores, and mail-orders. Just write and ask. Fair warning, however: *Zine World* is not available on consignment - we have to pay the printer and postage, so we expect stores to pay us up front.

- This magazine is not available through any major distributor and never will be. We're basically opposed to theft, especially when we're the ones being stolen from.

ANSWERING THE MAIL

- This zine is published more or less quarterly, but there's no schedule, no deadline. Please don't be a nag unless you haven't heard from us in *three months*.

- As you might imagine, we receive zines zines and more zines, many accompanied by delightfully chatty or bitchy letters. We're all volunteers, we're always swamped, and we're often up to a month behind just filling orders, so it's unfortunate but unavoidable that the pile of "letters we should answer" just keeps getting taller and taller. The publisher of this zine has a full-time job and works on this zine in her spare time, as do most of the staff. In other words, *be patient*.

- Requests that are highly unlikely to be honored include "please send me a letter when the issue with the review of my zine comes out" [sorry, there's just no time and no budget for mailing notices; you'll know the review has appeared when you get orders mentioning a review in ZW: ARG] or "I sent you my zine two weeks ago, when will the review appear?" [as soon as possible, but please allow at least a few months before trying to do a trace].

- We won't accept registered mail, certified mail, perfumed mail, anything with postage due, or any package that's too big to fit in my backpack.

- If mail is ever returned from our address, ZW: ARG may also be reached in care of any of our staff writers.

THIS, THAT, AND THE OTHER THING:

- Nope, our mailing list is not for rent, not for sale, not for swap. Don't bother asking.

- We print our review of your zine with the expectation that readers will send you money so they can experience first-hand your incredible artistic gifts. If they're interested enough to trust you with cash, please show readers some respect and send them your god damned zine. We all love your charming free-spiritedness and lovable disorganization, but *keep a record of incoming orders and honor them!* Miscreants will be pilloried on these pages in upcoming issues.

- Anything in *Zine World* without a byline (this sentence, for example) was written by your humble editor.

MEMO TO MORONS:

- There are always unsigned notes floating around the office - "the price isn't in the zine, but it's \$2," or "the address in the zine is outdated, should be..." - but we don't know what zines these notes are *from*. Please *staple* important notes to your zine's back cover, or at least put your name and address *on the note!*

- If your zine is published anonymously or pseudonymously, we'll never intentionally blow your cover - but why take chances? Please *don't* reveal your secret identity when writing to ZW: ARG.

The Whole World *Isn't* Watching

(But Look Who Is!)

AFTER THE INITIAL SHOCK of September 11 subsided, and as the usual suspects prepared for another Anglo-American-led orgy of military devastation, protesters took to the streets in the usual futile effort to head off the coming disaster. In late September, 3,000 protesters gathered outside Downing Street in London, with another 1,000 demonstrating in both Glasgow and Liege, Belgium; many thousands rallied for peace in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco; and many hundreds participated in peace demonstrations in Los Angeles, New York, Quebec, Chicago, and other cities around

the world. With the exception of the early, morose 'vigils' in American cities, the mass gatherings in Western countries were afforded scant coverage in the American mainstream press, defusing much of the impact upon public opinion such actions might have had.

The media did feature coverage, however, on Middle Eastern protests against the coming bloodbath, with strange distortions that even the casual observer could notice. For instance, the September 22 New York Times featured a full-color photograph of a lone protester, hunkered on the ground, while two Pakistani

police kicked and beat him. Lest the photo stir up any empathy for this poor chap, the caption briskly informs the reader that the beating victim is probably an Islamic hardliner, and presumably deserves this rough treatment. The actual story of that day, back in Section B, downplayed the magnitude of the protests, describing them as small but angry, even though the accompanying photo shows a smiling crowd – which the Times couldn't resist identifying as "sympathizers of Osama Bin Laden." In fact, the only folks who look angry in the story

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NEWS

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Protecting Us from The Truth

"Vietnam was the first war ever fought without any censorship. Without censorship, things can get terribly confused in the public mind."

—Gen. Wm. C. Westmoreland
U.S. Army, 1982

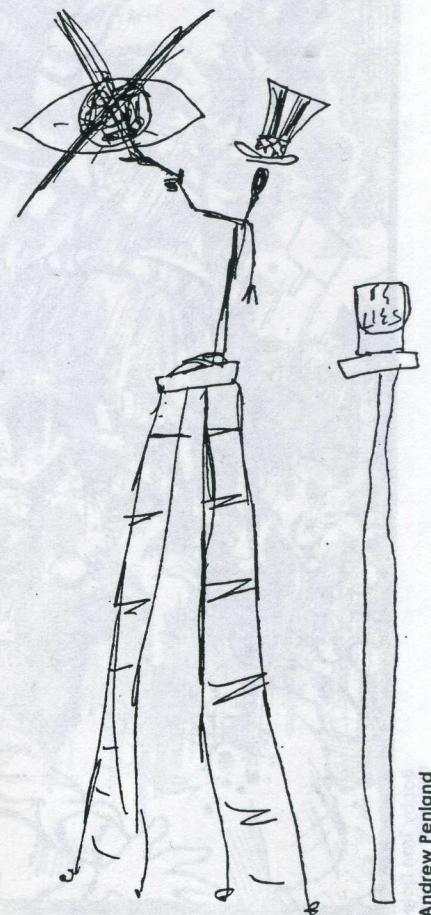
"Justice is rather the activity of truth, than a virtue in itself. Truth tells us what is due to others, and justice renders that due. Injustice is acting a lie."

—Horace Walpole, 1787

"THE WELL-INFORMED ELECTORATE" is one of those catchphrases that many of us recall from our high school social studies classes. Some of us remember what it means better than others, but most of us readily agree that it is vitally important to our lives. In some sense, the people of the United States are the best-informed people who have ever lived in the history of the world. Every day, during every waking moment, we are almost drowning under a deluge of facts and figures; we can always be certain that tens of thousands of dollars are being spent every second to keep us in this state. That said, the early Americans who crafted the phrase probably would be appalled to see our contemporary Information Age, where the electorate is kept informed on affordable oil and filter changes, medicated foot powder, up-to-the-minute sports scores, what's on at nine/eight central, and the latest official release from the State Department and the Pentagon. The framers of the Constitution had special reason for valuing a well-informed electorate, in that it is a defense against tyranny, a powerful force that motivates a free society.

The phrase does not mean that people are overwhelmed by unimportant minutiae, nor does it mean that people are informed only about what is deemed proper by the authorities who benefit from their ignorance. The opening quote from Walpole – himself a contemporary of our war for independence – frames the value of truthful and comprehensive information with great depth and clarity: To be well-informed is to have on hand the information to detect truth from falsehood, justice from injustice, and to be able to make well-informed decisions that may affect the course of events for the better.

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WORLD

are the two uniformed thugs athletically battering the defenseless man.

Apparently not satisfied with such coverage, the *Times* ran a long piece in its Sunday edition the following week, describing the Pakistani protests in stronger terms. Launching off the front page and totaling 27 column inches with four full-color photographs, the title is more provocative, "Streets of Huge Pakistan City Seethe with Hatred of U.S." The photos show angry men with their fists in the air and features a disturbing pull-quote: "Boys shout 'Death to America' and laugh, as though it were a game."

The skeptical reader might notice, as usual, that if the players in the *Times'* coverage were reversed, the story would be terribly offensive to most Americans. If we read that two police beat and kicked a "Christian fundamentalist" or that a crowd of folks at a patriotic rally were identified as "sympathizers of Donald Rumsfeld," or that "shopkeepers plaster 'Osama: Wanted Dead' posters in their windows as though it were a game" we might see the news for what it is: relentless war propaganda.

But just when you begin to doubt the *Times*, to condemn it for its impatience with peaceniks and its delight in war and xenophobia, it comes through for you. The September 30 *Times* *did* run coverage of the thousands of protesters in Washington – though they got it wrong at first and said there were only a "few hundred protesters" instead of the estimated eight to twenty-five thousand. (Nobody's perfect.) The article in question appeared a full two sections behind those provocative color photos of angry Pakistanis, tucked away in a left page below the fold in a tiny box, clocking in at just over 250 words. The piece featured a matter-of-fact description of how protesters gathered in a park, were surrounded by swarming police motorcycles, and rattled by the roar of a circling chopper, until police moved in and doused the crowd with pepper spray, arresting 11 without specifying the reasons. Present in Washington on a fundraising trip, former President Bill Clinton remarked that demonstrators "are welcome to say what they want to say," but that "The people who did this to America would not permit them the same right." (We can only wonder what the old skirt-chaser meant, as being surrounded and intimidated and running the risk of being sprayed with deadly chemicals doesn't strike us as being particularly "welcome" in any sense of the word.) The piece, entitled "Protesters in Washington Urge Peace With Terrorists," did not feature so much as a single black and white photograph.

BUT IF AMERICAN peace agitators are upset that the newsmen aren't snapping pictures of their protests, they can take heart in the fact that the *police* are doing it. For example, in Worcester, Mass., in October, a photographer walked around a peace vigil snapping photographs of those involved. When asked by a peace group member who she was and why she was there, the photographer answered, "I'm not with anybody," shortly before she was seen leaving in a Worcester police van. A candid police officer at the vigil said that Worcester police "had been instructed by the FBI to take photos of all demonstrations."

Detective Division Commander Captain Paul F. Campbell told newspapers that he had not been on duty that day and was unable to find out who ordered the photos, though he was apparently familiar enough with the photography to say that the reason for taking snapshots was "confidential" and insisting that "we will take pictures when we feel there's a necessity to take pictures." Campbell disingenuously denied that the protestors were "being targeted as someone that was responsible for anything," though one imagines him toying with his cruel truncheon as he coolly remarks, "it gives us a tool" in case one of the people at the event commits a crime.

Essentially, here we have one visible instance of a police department cooperating with the FBI in compiling photographs of politically active war resisters, and the police captain is telling us that these people are possible suspects for some unspecified crime, which could happen at an unspecified place and an unspecified time. As opposed to traditional police surveillance where a person is designated a suspect and then closely watched, here we have a group of people being watched for no other reason than their political activities. And,



Bobby Iran Dale

after all, it's confidential, so the captain doesn't *need* to tell residents why their photographs are being taken – even though they're paying for the film, the cameras, the photographer, and his fat salary. Peace group organizers worried that the photographs were an intimidation move designed to jangle the nerves of demonstrators, but the actual reason is probably far more insidious: a national database of antiwar activists.

SOME PROTESTERS are concerned enough about police shutterbugs to start attending peace marches in masks to protect their anonymity. In Denver, on September 29, seven protesters were arrested for suspicion of "interfering with police officers." That's right: When they bust into your house on a no-knock warrant at three o'clock in the morning wearing a mask, the police are probably not interfering with you, but if you put on so much as a colorful vizard at a public rally in broad daylight, you are "interfering" with them!

Mark Silverstein, Legal Director of the Colorado ACLU, said, "The police had a standing order that day that anyone who appeared at the march with their face covered would be detained, and if they had no identification, they would be arrested...We certainly disagree with the police view that they have the right to detain anyone who participates in a protest march with a covered face." Observers of the protest reported that police were feeling free and easy about pulling people out of the crowd for no reason, rifling through backpacks, and frisking individuals trying to practice their freedom of speech.

Bear in mind, that in many parts of the country, it is illegal to wear a mask at a political demonstration, and many of these laws were passed with the enthusiastic backing of so-called progressives because the laws were designed to thwart Ku Klux Klan rallies. Now that the shoe is on the other foot, perhaps we can point out again that *free speech is for everyone*. –Michael

SOURCES: American Civil Liberties Union, *Denver Post*, FAIR, *New York Times*, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*

TRUTH

It has long been the case, however, that government and big media are decidedly hostile toward the spirit of open inquiry and the search for truth. In politics and in commerce, these parties consider a well-informed electorate to be one brought into line with major, accepted truths – like everybody needs a president and a car – with the aggressive informing reserved for narrow choices – like whether to elect a Democrat or a Republican, whether to buy a Ford or a Chevy.

In time of war, however, such trends come more clearly into view, and the tone set by government and big media grows harsher than ever to even minor dissent, and the two begin to merge with each other so as to become almost indistinguishable, with government officials becoming regular television stars and broadcasting networks cowling their screens with the flag. While these circumstances are not conducive to a well-informed public, for the inquisitive skeptic they illustrate just how infinitesimal a grasp the establishment of media executives and government officials have on freedom, how little value they place on truth, and how they see anything that benefits them in the end as being justice.

For instance, mere hours after the attacks, American newspapers editorialized, based upon scant information, for the complete devastation of an entire country along with alleged suspects their government harbors. Television networks ran unalloyed information from the Pentagon and the usual cozy fireside chats with key figures in executive government, the intelligence community, and freelancing terrorism 'experts.' Radio stations have played jingoistic medleys designed to pluck the patriotic heartstrings of listeners. Only rarely have the media featured interviews with critics of the American foreign policy that precipitated the current crisis, experts in international law, or witnesses to the current campaign of terror in South Asia. How quickly prior appeals to objectivity have evaporated!

Within days of the attacks, Clear Channel Communications, one of the major

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Bobby Iran Dale

TRUTH

media trusts in the United States, circulated a list to its 1,200 stations across the country suggesting that they not play any of 150 songs, most of which may have resulted in cringing black humor, but many of which – including “Imagine” by John Lennon and all songs by Rage Against the Machine – might have resulted in sober reflection that could have helped temper the worst of the pro-war hysteria.

When two reporters for two different papers – Dan Guthrie of the *Grants Pass Daily Courier* in Oregon and Tom Gutting of the *Texas City Sun* – had the temerity to criticize President Bush for running away to a secure location after the attacks, they were summarily fired.

After NBC News’ White House reporter Campbell Brown asked Tom Ridge, the head of the new Office of Homeland Security, a few tough questions during a press conference, she received a personal call from a senior administration official telling her to put the kid gloves back on.

KOMY-AM in Santa Cruz, Ca., dropped the talk show of Detroit-based host Peter Werbe after he raised questions about military intervention in Afghanistan.

When harmless fixtures at the *New Yorker*, such as Susan Sontag and Adam Gopnik, wrote a few pieces of sober inquiry or ironic beauty, they were attacked by Steve “Simply Kill Those Bastards!” Dunleavy of the *New York Post* and Leon Wisseltier of the *New Republic*.

German composer Karlheinz Stockhausen risked a bit of edgy simile when he remarked that the attacks were “the greatest work of art ever... People practice madly for ten years, completely, fanatically, for a concert and then die.” Shortly thereafter, a New York concert of his was canceled.

Professor Robert Jensen of the University of Texas wrote a strong piece for the *Houston Chronicle*, which stated that for more than a half-century the United States has, in the Third World, “deliberately targeted civilians or engaged in violence so indiscriminate that there is no other way to understand it except as terrorism... If that statement seems outrageous, ask the people of Vietnam. Or Cambodia and Laos. Or Indonesia and East Timor. Or Chile. Or Central America. Or Iraq. Or Palestine.” For this seldom issued but important distinction, Jensen was rewarded with an open letter to the *Chronicle* from university President Larry Faulkner that called his remarks “disgusting.” “Jensen is not only misguided,” Faulkner continued, “but has become a fountain of undiluted foolishness on issues of public policy...”

At the Missouri School of Journalism, the news director of the campus television station put the kibosh on the station’s reporters wearing flag pins and red-white-and-blue ribbons. The director explained, “Our news broadcasts are not the place for personal statements of support for any cause – no matter how deserving the cause seems to be... Our job is to deliver the news as free from outside influence as possible.” Republican legislators in Missouri threatened to withhold funds from the school in response.

Even when feigning objectivity and pursuing the party line in deed, ABC News President David Westin wandered into trouble. When addressing a group of college journalism students, he asserted that, as a journalist, he had no opinion as to whether or not the Pentagon was a legitimate target. “I was wrong,” he recanted on October 31.

In October, New York City’s *Newsday* pulled a comic strip, *The Boondocks*, because it poked fun at U.S. support of Osama bin Laden during the Russo-Afghan war – doing so under the mantle of sensitivity to fragile New Yorkers.

When a reporter for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* tried to gain access to a student antiwar rally, campus police refused her admission because she was not escorted by a public affairs staff member.

Also in October, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice ‘asked’ the five major television networks not to run interviews with Osama bin

Laden. (This is the same Condoleezza Rice who was formerly on the board of directors of Chevron, which is a growing investor in South Asia.)

If you think that at least the Internet is free from such strictures, bear notice that the FBI is up to its old tricks again, calling on Internet service providers and ‘asking’ them to take content offline. It happened with Hypervine, an ISP that was offering access to radio shows originally broadcast from BWAI in New York. Yes, even the outlook for the wild and woolly Internet is glum, and, as we’ve reported before, the FBI – who were never reluctant to try such strong-arm tactics in the past – are probably now high-fiving in ecstasy over the possibilities of such extralegal intervention having a basis in law soon.

When Bill Maher made some off-the-cuff remarks on his show, *Politically Incorrect*, he lost two sponsors. The government even stopped in to help rebuke the visible talk show host, as White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer told the press, “It’s a terrible thing to say, and it’s unfortunate... There are reminders to all Americans that they need to watch what they say, watch what they do, and this is not a time for remarks like that; there never is.”

Lest the reader think that the above are isolated incidents not indicative of a larger trend, reports have surfaced that indicate the media aren’t called the Fourth Estate for nothing. The mere fact that television networks almost exclusively feature the U.S. military perspective doesn’t stop with staid choices for interviewees. The networks work closely with ‘former’ military officials when crafting the news itself. All of the major broadcasters have ex-military consultants, including former Defense Secretary William Cohen and former NATO Supreme Commander Wesley Clark. They often advise news organizations on how to ‘protect national security’ and help decide where they deploy their reporters.

Retired U.S. Army General George Joulwan, former Allied Commander in Europe, said, “We’re a team, and the media is (sic) part of that team... I think the ones that I’ve talked to realize that we’re all in this together and we all have roles to play.” Indeed, there is little suggestion that this ‘help’ will provide any criticism of military activities. NATO’s Clark explained, “You can never question what the commander decides to do... Once you’ve been on the inside and realize how much information he has, you’ve been educated the same way he has and trained the same way he has, you’d probably do the same thing if you saw the information he has.”

Even the supposed ‘liberals’ brought in from the political world behaved no better. In the immediate aftermath of the attacks, former Clinton administration senior advisor George Stephanopolous remarked – in his capacity as John Q. Public, of course, and in no way attempting to put words in the public’s mouth – that people seemed ready to give up some freedom for security.

The network news organizations probably do not need much help from special advisors when it comes to presenting the war in a light favorable to the Pentagon and the State Department. CNN Chair Walter Isaacson ordered his staff to “balance images of civilian devastation in Afghan cities with reminders that the Taliban harbors murderous terrorists,” according to the *Washington Post*, and that Isaacson said it “seems perverse to focus too much on the casualties or hardship in Afghanistan.” Isaacson issued a memo to the news organization that warned, “As we get good reports from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, we must redouble our efforts to make sure we do not seem to be simply reporting from their vantage or perspective.” The memo also distorted history, declaring that newsgatherers should not “forget it is that country’s leaders who are responsible for the situation Afghanistan is now in...” When a media honcho such as Isaacson follows up a demand for objectivity with a mandated perspective, we may be sure that the policies now implemented at CNN are counter to clear reason.

Such carefully worded memos with the pretense of objectivity, however, are nothing compared to the on-air attitudes of reporters and anchors at Fox News Channel. In early November, Brit Hume wondered aloud, "The question I have is, civilian casualties are historically, by definition, a part of war, really. Should they be as big news as they've been?" When asked about his comments, Hume replied, "Look, neutrality as a general principle is an appropriate concept for journalists who are covering institutions of some comparable quality... This is a conflict between the United States and murdering barbarians."

The printed press has been little better at objectivity. A survey conducted by Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting revealed that in the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, op-ed pages devoted lavish space to pro-war views and almost no space to peaceful diplomatic or internationally mediated proposals, with a ratio of 22 to 1 in favor of military action. Compare the viewpoint of these trend-setting national papers with a Gallup poll that showed a slim majority, 54 percent, of Americans favored a military response.

Newspapers also ran a preponderance of pro-war perspectives that pooch-pooched civilian casualties and civil rights. Michael Barone, an editorial hawk with long-standing connections to the Department of Defense, was free to write in *U.S. News* that "civilian casualties and collateral damage are not very newsworthy," with a straight face just after thousands of civilians died on the East Coast. Norah Vincent was free to write of airport security and the trashing of civil liberties for the *Los Angeles Times* that "in this climate you should count yourself lucky that it wasn't a body cavity search, and you should be more than happy to comply if it is."

DESPITE THE BEST EFFORTS of the government, the military, and the Fourth Estate to rally behind the war, there are those who have unorthodox ideas and actually try to use their freedom of speech or freedom of the press to provide the other point of view. These actors will find that vital resources are out of reach, will be besieged by flacks, and may even find themselves being openly attacked with high explosives.

For instance, news organizations that want to show images of what's happening on the ground, especially where the military will not admit them, are unable to do it from space. The Defense Department's National Imagery and Mapping Agency entered into exclusive agreements with Space Imaging, Inc., to tie up all rights to satellite imagery of South Asia. The Pentagon did this claiming that it only sought to supplement its own satellite images, although the inescapable conclusion is that the Pentagon left one less way for new agencies to confirm or disprove official claims.

The government has tried to directly balk news agencies where it exercises direct control. In September, the State Department told the Voice of America not to run an interview with the Taliban's Mullah Mohammed Omar, although they relented after protest from the staff.

Even if they're not often featured in the media these days, the academy does employ a number of professors who futilely invite the media to carry their public remarks. Conscious of this danger, the political lifers at the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, an organization founded by Mrs. Dick Cheney, geared up to blacken the name of any of these public figures who would use reason and inquiry to arrive at conclusions independent of the official truths. In a November 2001 report entitled "Defending Civilization: How Our Universities Are Failing America and What Can Be Done About It," the organization cites 115 examples of actions or statements by faculty and students across the country. Any crusade to equate dissent with treason, no matter how carefully crafted, becomes quickly ridiculous. This report is no exception, as it attempts to cast such stable establishment figures as Todd Gitlin and Jesse Jackson as dangerous subversives. One academic made the list for simply saying, "Ignorance breeds hate," although it may have been because his name was Wasima Alikhan. The meat of the

act, though, is that the report singles out those who promote "tolerance and diversity as antidotes to evil" and shake "accusatory fingers, not at the terrorists, but at America itself."

Another energetic flack is Scott Rubush, associate editor for David Horowitz's *FrontPage* magazine, who discussed four faculty members at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill on National Public Radio in October. The angry Rubush banged his shoe on the table and howled into the microphone, "They're using state resources to the practical effect of aiding and abetting the Taliban!" and demanded their dismissal.

If these crude flacks do sound idiotic, we must note that their work is effective when they attack timid editors or frightened deans, or when they are visible enough to draw on the energy of the multitudes of angry busybodies with nothing better to do than write a crabby e-mail or postcard. Typical of the craven chair buffers flacks choose as targets, a higher-up at the *Panama City News Herald* in Florida penned this terrified memo, which was later leaked: "DO NOT USE photos on Page 1A showing civilian casualties from the U.S. war on Afghanistan. Our sister paper in Fort Walton Beach has done so and received hundreds and hundreds of threatening e-mails and the like... DO NOT USE wire stories which lead with civilian casualties from the war on Afghanistan. They should be mentioned further down in the story. If the story needs rewriting to play down the civilian casualties, DO IT. The only exception is if the U.S. hits an orphanage, school, or similar facility and kills scores or hundreds of children."

And then there's the television station Al-Jazeera. For months, U.S. journalists denounced the station, excoriating its lopsided coverage of the war. How dare a station, in a sovereign country, watching a devastating war in its backyard, speak critically of U.S. motives or concentrate on the horrors of civilian casualties. Media figures and government officials were outraged that the station continued to broadcast from Kabul, even if they did give airtime to U.S. spokespeople as well as Taliban fighters. The U.S. even asked the government of Qatar to make sure the station came better in line with the Pentagon's rosy view of the conflict, but authorities in that country did not act. About five weeks after this request, U.S. bombs destroyed the Kabul office of the station. The international media could only conclude that the bombing was intentional. The BBC's Nik Gowing said of the incident, "It seems to me there is some evidence to be put to the Pentagon about the targeting of news organizations," and that journalists and broadcasters must send "a very clear message that this must not be allowed to continue."

JUST HOW COMPLIANT are the U.S. media in this "War on Terrorism"? Consider, each time you hear the attacks on the United States called "terrorism" that the BBC World Service, the respected international news source available throughout the globe, has made it official policy to *not* describe the attacks of September 11 as terrorism. Mark Damazer, deputy news director for the network, said, "However appalling and disgusting it was, there will nevertheless be a constituency of your listeners who don't regard it as terrorism. Describing it as such could downgrade your status as an impartial and independent broadcaster." At least outside the "land of the free," journalism experts can point out, without fear of condemnation so quickly delivered here, that words like "terrorism" or "freedom fighter" have a political agenda behind them and do not serve to make apolitical distinctions. -Michael

SOURCES: *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, *Democratic Underground*, *Editor & Publisher*, *Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting*, *freedomforum.org*, *The Guardian*, *The Hartford Courant*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Jim Romanesko's Media News*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Nation*, *New York Times*, *Newsday*, *Reuters*, *St. Louis Journalism Review*, *USA Today*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Village Voice*, *VOA News*, *Washington Post*

CRASH OR SPLASH?

INDICATIONS THAT THE PENTAGON is telling the truth aren't promising, and there are few signs that the media are vigorously investigating Pentagon statements. When the media lap up whatever the Pentagon pours into the saucer, how can we get reliable news and make informed decisions?

As anybody who was watching television on a certain September morning knows, unconfirmed and unofficial reports were pouring into newsrooms, describing all manner of events, some more cockeyed than others. One thing most networks seemed to agree upon was that at least one plane was still in the sky and fighters were scrambled to meet any planes not responding to the countrywide grounding order.

We later heard stories of the valiant passengers on United Airlines Flight 93, how they may have attempted to regain control of the aircraft, relying on a few cellular phone calls and the suggestive reports of air traffic controllers who said they heard a struggle in the cockpit. All facts seemed to lead to the conclusion that, in the melee, the plane went out of control and crashed.

Those early unconfirmed reports, however, also did mention that a plane had been shot down, at least before the journalistic free-for-all suddenly started following the official party line.

Though many might think a passenger jet hit by a missile would explode upon impact, like fighter jets in Hollywood movies, aviation experts have contended that a more likely result would be a missile hitting an engine with some damage to the fuselage, disabling the plane.

Eyewitness accounts are consistent with this scenario. Minutes before the crash, Glenn Cramer, an emergency dispatcher in Pennsylvania fielded a cellular telephone call from a man claiming to be a passenger locked in a bathroom aboard United Flight 93. The man repeatedly said the call was not a hoax and cried, "We are being hijacked, we are being hijacked!" and telling dispatchers the aircraft "was going down." Cramer said, "He heard some sort of explosion and saw white smoke coming from the plane and we lost contact with him." This provocative 911-dispatch tape was seized by FBI agents.

Some witnesses reported hearing up to three loud booms before the jetliner went down. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported that the plane fell from the sky after leaving a trail of debris five miles long, and the paper's editor stood by the story, even affirming, "The FBI confirmed to us that the debris came from that airliner!" Residents and workers at businesses outside Shanksville, Somerset County, distant from the abandoned strip mine where the plane crashed, reported discovering books, papers, and what appeared to be human remains, and well-meaning residents collected bags filled with these grisly items and turned them over to poker-faced investigators. Others reported what appeared to be crash debris floating in Indian Lake, nearly six miles from the immediate crash scene. State Police Major Lyle Szupinka said that searchers found one of the plane's jet engines almost entirely intact "at a considerable distance from the crash site," adding that the rest of the wreckage was in much worse condition, in pieces no bigger than a briefcase. Suggestively, though the final crash site only occupied the area of a football field, authorities established a three-mile perimeter around the debris field, arresting any rubberneckers who slipped through for a look. FBI Special Agent William Crowley was quoted as admitting that "pieces of the wreckage have been found as far away as New Baltimore, about eight miles from the crash site," attributing this remarkable evidence to the fact that "when the eastbound plane crashed, a nine-knot wind was blowing from the southeast."

Though the FBI issued a plea for anyone who saw the doomed jetliner before it crashed to call a toll-free number, as the TWA 800 investigation

illustrated, only eyewitness testimony that supports the 'official' view of events meets with investigators' consistent interest. As for the cockpit voice recorder, which many hoped would reveal clues about the cause of the crash, it was reportedly recovered in good condition, although after the NTSB examined it they did not seem very sanguine. FBI Director Robert S. Mueller told the press, "I can't go into the details any more but I will tell you that it will take some time because we are analyzing very carefully what is heard on that voice data recorder." Mueller's strong statement that the voice recorder offered essentially no evidence and a similar refusal to comment on whether or how the data supported the story of passengers struggling to fowl the hijacking did not prevent him from eulogizing, without citing specific evidence, "The attorney general and I, and the attorney general of Pennsylvania, believe that those passengers on this jet were absolute heroes, and their actions during this flight were heroic."

So far, the FBI has refused family requests to make public the cockpit voice recording, saying that families would not find comfort from it. "While we empathize with the grieving families, we do not believe that the horror captured on the cockpit voice recording will console them in any way," said FBI spokesman John Collingwood, who also said the voices on the recording were virtually indistinguishable.

Couple this with statements about the intent and capability of air power already in the area and unwholesome speculation becomes irresistible. Vice President Dick Cheney stated on NBC's *Meet the Press* that, when it became apparent that the crashes were intentional, President Bush authorized the military to shoot down unauthorized civilian aircraft that might be en route to an attack. "We decided to do it," Cheney said in the televised interview, New Hampshire's *Nashua Telegraph* reported that FAA employees at a Boston-area air-traffic control center heard from controllers at other facilities that an F-16 "stayed in hot pursuit" of the 757. Eyewitnesses reported fighter jets visible in the air at the time and place of the crash. Plus, what was possible then is now established fact: The Pentagon has admitted that two air force generals have since been authorized to shoot down any dangerous civilian planes. As Flight 93 had made a U-turn over Cleveland that would have startled competent air traffic controllers, and as the 'crash' occurred more than an hour after the first crash in New York City, the military might even be incompetent if it didn't shoot down the aircraft.

If this was the result of a terrorist bomb, which, according to one of the frantic cellular phone calls, the hijackers claimed to have, why not disclose the circumstantial evidence more openly? If the 'crash' was an air engagement, why not come clean to a public that may be likely to see justification for such an action, given the extremity of the situation? Why do the Pentagon and the media stick to a story that so obviously has trouble conforming to facts at the crime scene?

Is it paranoid to wonder if something fishy is going on here? Some aviation experts aren't so quick to rule it out. Victor Ujimoro, a professor of aviation management at the University of Western Ontario, said that, though the proposition "seems a bit bizarre," it "may not be too far-fetched of a hypothesis to entertain," adding, "It's not a very palatable piece of news for the American public."

Ujimoro's insight may be on the mark, if phrased a bit too charitably to the Pentagon to our taste. Does the public have a right to know the truth only when it is palatable? Is it preferable that Americans are spoon-fed information substitutes and left in blissful ignorance of unpleasant realities? —Michael

SOURCES: Associated Press, CNN, The Daily American (Somerset, Pa.), The Guardian (London), Idaho Observer, The New York Times, Peoria Journal Star, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

Evil, Evil People

"The good Lord didn't see fit to put oil and gas only where there are democratic regimes friendly to the United States."

—Dick Cheney, 1996

AS MICHAEL MOORE FANS KNOW, the motion picture comedy *Canadian Bacon* depicts a rather desperate U.S. president shopping around for some country amenable to war with the U.S. in order to boost his popularity and to detract attention from other sordid realities. Though the comedy is an obvious farce with plenty of caricature and overstatement, it trades in truth to some degree: It is remarkable how often the U.S. has had a hand in establishing its later enemies.

But the U.S. doesn't set pins up just to knock them down — though this 'skeet-shooting' is instrumental in maintaining a boom in our military-industrial complex. Exploring the real reasons why we create our later enemies requires a bit of digging, looking past the simplistic bedtime stories our government officials have been telling us.

The blunt truth is that future foes are outfitted because the U.S. has solid reasons for desiring harsh, repressive tyrannies in client countries. A truly sovereign country with some amount of self-determination, democracy, or popular input can drive a harder bargain with U.S. multinational corporations. Such countries may create a climate where bankers, miners, drillers, landowners, and industrialists, especially from the U.S., are never sure about their all-important profits, as such countries tend to be tough negotiators with U.S. corporations.

But where free enterprise, diplomacy, and negotiation fail, force can win the day. In a client state, the U.S.-supported despot may be a bastard, but he's 'our' bastard. That is to say that the country accepts onerous 'loans' from U.S. banks that bleed the public treasury dry; show proper hostility to labor organizers, land reformers, and human rights groups in U.S. dominated areas; or turn a blind eye toward drug production or money laundering when it benefits the U.S. As opposed to a more representative country, which could require diplomatic persuasion or expensive concessions in order to do business, in a client state there is only a small cartel in power that makes deals and delivers on promises. In oil country, like in Central Asia and the Middle East, the client state supports destructive and poisonous natural resource extraction without objecting to environmental devastation or exacting much tribute in return. These are the realities of U.S.

foreign policy that make Faustian bargains in the service of corporate profits. Sometimes, however, these U.S. viceroys are deposed, which can lead to anything from sudden embargoes to full-scale military invasions. And sometimes 'our bastards' get their own strange ideas about self-determination, and that's when the U.S. must get into the Orwellian business of making a long-standing ally into a convenient enemy — as it has with Noriega in Panama, Hussein in Iraq, and now with the Taliban.

All recent sagas of Yankee privateering in the Middle East have followed the script closely. Where Congress recently had *some* debate about giving several billion dollars to the Columbian military, the U.S. spends at least \$25 billion per year procuring political leadership conducive to profits for oil companies. All of this amounts to a public subsidy — not just of private industry, but of cruelty, tyranny, rule of terror, and daily injustice in the pursuit of 'U.S. interests.'

The U.S. pays not only for the temporarily agreeable political establishment, but when such arrangements inevitably blow up into popular uprisings the U.S. pays to balk them — and has the temerity to take the 'high moral ground' in doing so. The U.S. pays to overthrow Iran's Mossadegh in the '50s, only to face Khomeni in the '80s. The U.S. pays to oust Kassin in Iraq and later deals with Hussein, its own creation, in the '90s.

Similarly, in the late '70s, the U.S. paid Muslim extremists to slay Afghanistan's populist leader Noor Mohammed Taraki, who had tried to engage in land reform, to discourage arranged marriages, and to balk the opium trade that was the bread and butter of Muslim fundamentalists. It was the progressive tone of Taraki's administration that sealed his fate as a 'communist' in the eyes of the U.S. State Department, which proclaimed in a 1979 memo, "The United States' larger interest ... would be served by the demise of the Taraki-Amin Regime, despite whatever setbacks this might mean for future social and economic reforms in Afghanistan. The overthrow of the [Democratic Republic of Afghanistan] would show the rest of the world, particularly the Third World, that the Soviets' view of the socialist course of history being inevitable is not accurate."

When Taraki was killed a few months later, and the American-educated Hafizullah Amin took over, the Soviet Union invaded, hoping to head off another U.S. client state. This protracted conflict found the U.S. government consorting again with its usual complement of freedom-hating criminals, in this case the fanatical Mujahadeen, or — as they were then deemed by a determined and dry-eyed Dan Rather — "Freedom Fighters."

SEE EVIL PEOPLE, next page

Double Take

"It's like watching two different wars."

—Tony Burman, Executive Director of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, commenting on the difference between U.S. and European television coverage of the war.

THAT THE PENTAGON would shrink from disturbing disclosures and trade in soothing falsehood isn't too startling. It is an interested party, and has a stake in seeing that its version of events is accepted as truth by the press, the American public, and as much of the world as it can manage. Luckily for Americans, much of the foreign press is not buffaloed by the tall tales of our men in green, giving us an insight into a more impartial view of events.

Such accounts from overseas give us a view of the bone-chilling terror the Pentagon is wreaking in South Asia, and such reportage hits all the refrains familiar to those who have followed the horrifying march of Anglo-American empire through these channels in the past. When comparing the actualities of what's happening on the ground with the disingenuous dissembling of Pentagon officials, one gains a deeper understating why these crusades of military expansion earn the U.S. the contempt and ridicule of much of the world.

The contrast between official pronouncements and terrifying realities has grown ever sharper since the bombing campaign began on October 7, 2001, with no small thanks to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, under whose stewardship this garden of lies has blossomed anew. For the television viewer in the United States, the Afghan military adventure has mainly been seen through the eyes of old 'Rummy,' whose unpleasant, wan, thin-lipped, and somewhat ghastly visage graces the small screen with great regularity, where he not only imparts fibs about civilian casualties, but tells whoppers that would make a clergyman blush, and flaunts his short-circuited conscience by stooping to outrageous lows to dodge any glimmer of truth.

SEE DOUBLE, next page

EVIL PEOPLE

Terminology aside, the Mujahadeen had the brand of vigorous repression long treasured by the State Department. These religion-crazed thugs, upon learning that girls were now in classes with boys, blew up a school, beheaded the teacher, and murdered his wife. According to the *Washington Post*, these demented zealots enjoyed torturing their victims by "first cutting off their noses, ears, and genitals, then removing one slice of skin after another." Such brutality was lavishly rewarded by the U.S., which provided billions of dollars, a steady supply of armaments, and training, certainly hoping that, after a Russian withdrawal, such savagery might make Afghanistan great for U.S. business – even should it be a brutish hellhole for its people.

And so it isn't startling to hear that, despite the usual humanitarian platitudes, there is compelling evidence that the U.S. has supported the Taliban all through the '90s.

At the very moment the Taliban were most vulnerable and might have been defeated by other Afghan factions, U.S. officials worked to disarm these opponents, whom the Taliban shortly mopped up after being resupplied by U.S.-friendly Pakistan. Likewise, knowledgeable experts have charged that U.S. aid to Afghanistan has consistently been allocated to areas controlled by the Taliban.

Finally, many years after it had become common knowledge everywhere (except the

U.S.) that the U.S. was supporting a brutal regime without the slightest democratic tendencies, but whose leaders had visited Houston for talks with Unocal Oil, suddenly – suddenly – State Department rumblings grew a bit louder than usual and the slumbering media jolted awake, rubbed their eyes, and discovered that Afghanistan was run by 'evil people.' As television commentators rushed off to South Asia to go into great detail on these woman-hating, statue-destroying enemies of freedom, some observers suspected that the U.S. was preparing a 'reorganization' of the thug lords and drug lords in the area to bring it more into line with U.S. interests. With all due respect to September's tragic victims, the plan was set in motion even before September. According to former Pakistani diplomat Niaz Niak, senior U.S. officials were already discussing plans for a mid-October military action against the Taliban as early as July 2001. In light of this information, it seems reasonable to suspect that the war in South Asia has less to do with pursuing justice for September's disasters than it does with what the State Department has wanted for some time.

Unsavoury conjecture aside, as the U.S. voices brave words about shattering the Taliban's rule and encouraging the formation of a new coalition government, it bodes ill for Afghans that this noble-sounding goal is being waged by a coalition that includes many allies with disgusting human rights records of their own, such as Russia, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and the

Northern Alliance. What may we expect when such self-interested parties, which have shown very little interest in balking tyranny elsewhere, are suddenly gangbusters for forcibly reforming the affairs of another country? Will the end result be Talibanism without the Taliban? Is there any hope for the Afghans?

As this already lengthy examination illustrates, the story of Afghanistan's Taliban is a sweeping tale of international exploitation, with an instructive history – these individual actors of sudden infamy are long-standing employees of John and Jane Taxpayer, which ought to raise more than a few eyebrows.

So then, why all the stupid, childish, dumbed-down declarations from senior officials and "experts" who ought to know better? Why do we hear our normally inarticulate president engage in romper room babble that seems wooden even for him? ("And then, all of a sudden, some evil people came and they declared war on America.") These ludicrously idiotic statements are an attempt to inject a moral tone into the discussion, thereby thwarting further reasoned inquiry, but such desperate drum-beating usually suggests that better explanations are close at hand if we will only look for them. Should we find them, it would become clear that our shameless officials have no right to assume a moral tone in the first place. –Michael

SOURCES: Alexander Cockburn for the New York Press, BBC News, emperors-clothes.com, New York Times

DOUBLE

For instance, two days after the bombing campaign began, Rummy promised that coalition forces would "make every effort to select targets with the least possible unintended damage." On the day he uttered that solemn promise, the Taliban disclosed through diplomatic channels that 20 civilians had already been killed by the bombing.

Rummy weighed in almost a week later in a press conference, claiming that the Taliban "were shepherding journalists around to things they claimed caused civilian damage." After finally refusing to confirm such reports of civilian death, Rummy speculated that, since the air strikes targeted ammunition dumps, there may have been "powerful secondary explosions" that may have killed civilians, though anybody close enough to be injured probably deserved it. He was also compelled to confirm four civilian deaths – as they were United Nations aid workers whose deaths were confirmed by a source he couldn't easily dismiss – caused by "errant missile fire." (Isn't it odd how those missiles are going right into their targets all the time, never hitting civilians, but when one of those suckers goes haywire it heads right for people whose death can be independently confirmed? Talk about smart bombs!)

In response to an unusually pointed question about reports of hundreds of civilian casualties, Rummy wriggled somewhat awkwardly through this statement: "I think we know of certain knowledge that the Taliban leadership and al Qaeda are accomplished liars... They are taking journalists – to the extent there are journalists in the area – into areas that they want to take them..."

The next day, on October 16, U.S. missiles hit a warehouse of the International Red Cross in Kabul. The U.S. media, on a carefully administered diet of war propaganda, regurgitated the story that the warehouse was hit because it was one in a series of buildings used by the Taliban. Workers at the site reported, however, that the warehouse was part of a discrete compound of five buildings, two of which had red crosses on the roofs, encircled by a wall and surrounded by open field. When U.S. bombs struck the compound again, the 'error' could no longer be denied and Rummy remarked obliquely "it turns out that it may have had some Red Cross activity in it, and there may have been several people wounded there." Though the Pentagon apparently couldn't get in touch with the Red Cross to find out whether or not people were wounded, at least one reporter could easily. A Red Cross worker said that reports of Taliban control were incorrect and that they kept in close touch with the U.S., always informing the U.S. of their ongoing efforts to distribute food, so air attacks would not be directed at crowds surrounding their trucks out on distribution runs!

Why would the Pentagon want to bomb the Red Cross? It may be because the Red Cross distributes food without regard for political affiliation. The U.S. bombing has dramatically hampered United Nations food aid, and observers note that the United States has an infamous track record of using starvation as a weapon of war, especially in Iraq during the last decade, with devastating consequences.

On October 17, Rummy adopted a disgusting new explanation of possible civilian casualties. Speaking with Al Jazeera, he remarked, "We care a great deal about civilian casualties. We have to. Think of the thousands of innocent Americans that were killed by the terrorists." After

this sympathetic introduction, he then made revolting insinuations that the civilian casualties, allegedly in the hundreds, were the results of friendly fire: "If you think about it, it's true, the coalition aircraft are dropping some bombs on military targets. It's also true that there's a great deal of anti-aircraft fire coming up from the ground by Taliban against those aircraft. That munition kills people. It kills people on the ground when it comes back down."

In the following weeks, as reliable reports ran in the press overseas of U.S. bombs falling on residential suburbs distant from any military sites and killing entire families, of bombs hitting a hospital and killing dozens, of the U.S. firing on trucks carrying refugees, Rummy did his darndest to reassure the American public, bemoaning the lying ways of the Taliban and the credulity of reporters of the foreign press, bluntly denying hundreds of eyewitness accounts and offering cheerful "anecdotal information from the ground that people on the ground are impressed by the fact that they can basically go about their business, in many respects, and not fear from the bombing that's taking place." He later emphasized, "We know of certain knowledge that the Taliban are lying through their teeth... They're lying to the Afghan people claiming that the food we're delivering is unclean, which is a flat lie. It's been very carefully handled. And they have lied about the civilian casualties day after day after day." (Do you think he protests too much?)

Regarding those food packages: It turned out very unfortunately that the yellow plastic casing of the rectangular food packages dropped over Afghanistan bore an uncanny resemblance to unexploded yellow cylindrical cluster bomblets. Perhaps this 'mistake' was too serious for even Rummy to address, so General Richard Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, remarked to the press, "Right. It is unfortunate that the cluster bombs, the unexploded ones, are the same color as the food packets. We have dropped fliers that show the pictures and the proper language explains why you want to go to one and you don't want to go to the other. We hope that helps." Pentagon officials also promised to look into covering the food drops with another color of wrapper to help stop Afghans from picking up cluster bomblets instead of food but said they might have to first exhaust their supply of difficult-to-distinguish yellow packages.

"That, obviously, will take some time," Myers said, "because there are many in the pipeline."

If this episode leaves you suspecting the worst of the Pentagon, it is not encouraging to note that the job of 'educating' the Afghans via radio on how to make this crucial distinction was handed over to the division of psychological warfare, military psychological operations radio! The assignment is ripe with opportunities for inducing widespread hysteria and possibly further terrifying people from attempting to recover actual food drops.

Is it unlikely that the U.S. would disguise bombs as food to kill and mutilate Afghans? Stories of similar and possibly stranger tactics have come out of Afghan conflicts, including reports that the Soviets had rigged up toys to explode when handled! According to reports, the colorful objects were designed to mutilate, not kill, so that families would be compelled to leave the country to seek medical care for the injured child. Certainly U.S. cluster bomblets have been picked up by children in other war theaters, blowing off arms and legs of children in Southeast Asia.

Whether or not the U.S. is tarting up cluster devices as food drops or not, the very fact that the cluster bombs are being used at all should unsettle anybody who takes the Pentagon's claims of carefully staged, specifically targeted strikes at face value. Such weapons are devised to scatter hundreds of bomblets intended not to destroy armor or penetrate bunkers but to cause damage to human flesh indiscriminately, very possibly civilians.

Ever more stridently objecting to the mounting civilian death toll, which was mostly underreported 'allegations' in the U.S. press, Rummy still insisted that U.S. forces were taking every precaution. In a press

statement, Rummy sprung his new explanation for the numbers, alleging that the Taliban were using civilians as human shields. "Their leadership is the one that is hiding in mosques and using Afghan civilians as human shields by placing their armor and artillery in close proximity to civilian schools, hospitals, and the like," he asserted, further declaring, "When the Taliban issue accusations of civilian casualties, they indict themselves."

Later that week, the Pentagon changed tactics slightly from those early, cautious, 'surgical strikes' – they began carpet bombing. Perhaps because this contrasted so sharply with Rummy's earlier promises of making "every effort" to mitigate unintended damage, it was General Myers who fielded questions on this subject, telling the press to cheer up, as carpet bombing isn't what it used to be. "One thing to think about in the B-52 raids," Myers explained, "for some of us, we go back to Vietnam... and that's where the term 'carpet bombing' came up, because it was perhaps less accurate than it is today. The B-52 had been modified extensively, and so I think the term 'carpet bomb' is not right."

The bombing continued, and as many as 90 residents of the village of Chokar Kariz were bombed to death – almost the entire village. The Taliban estimated civilian deaths at 1,500. The U.S. then began dropping 'daisy cutter' bombs that weigh over seven tons and ignite a vapor of ammonium nitrate and aluminum to incinerate everything within 1,800 feet, six times as powerful as the bomb that blew up the federal building in Oklahoma City. Viewers around the world were treated to an example of the stunning accuracy of the bombing campaign "focused totally on military targets" when during a live two-way interview, the BBC World Service's Lyse Doucet dived to the floor shouting "Jesus Christ!" as a coalition bomb hit next door to BBC studios, knocking down the wall behind him. Throughout, the Pentagon kept up with statements that the Taliban's estimates – which were printed without significant caveat in foreign newspapers – were greatly exaggerated.

When the Pentagon and the American press are the very last institutions in the world that see the war in this manner, are they still reliable? Can every other source in the world be wrong, and be wrong in the same way?

Despite their stubborn insistence, by late October it became clear that much of the world was watching the 'war' with strong disgust. As early as November 1, 2001, John Pilger, writing for the usually reactionary *London Mirror*, spoke for many when he wrote a pointed, front-page article entitled "This War is a Fraud." Pilger declared:

"By killing innocents in Afghanistan, Blair and Bush stoop to the level of the criminal outrage in New York. Once you cluster bomb, 'mistakes' and 'blunders' are a pretense. Murder is murder, regardless of whether you crash a plane into a building or order and collude with it from the Oval Office and Downing Street..."

"Far from being the terrorists of the world, the overwhelming majority of the Islamic peoples of the Middle East and South Asia have been its victims – victims largely of the West's exploitation of precious natural resources in or near their countries."

"There is no war on terrorism. If there was the Royal Marines and SAS would be storming the beaches of Florida, where more CIA-funded terrorists, ex-Latin American dictators and torturers are given refuge than anywhere on earth."

"There is, however, a continuing war of the powerful against the powerless, with new excuses, new hidden agendas, new lies..."

Though such strong words are perhaps impalatable to much of the American public, they strike further to the heart of the matter than hundreds of hours of flag-draped newscasts and any Pentagon press conference. Perhaps less harsh but even more to the point would be the voice of that countryman who was the national conscience of another age, Henry David Thoreau, who wrote these words in 1854: "A government which deliberately enacts injustice, and persists in it, will at length become the laughing-stock of the world." –Michael

SOURCES: BBC News, The Department of Defense, *emperors-clothes.com*, *expressindia.com*, *The Mirror*, *USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, *Yahoo News*

Are Your Papers in Order?

BACK IN THE 1980s, the Reagan Administration had considered the possibility of instituting a national identification program that would require each American to possess an ID card at all times. During the cabinet meeting in which the idea was discussed, domestic policy advisor Martin Anderson – probably less interested with ideals of liberty than with shrewd pragmatism – pointed out how such an initiative could backfire by remarking, “Why not just tattoo a number on everyone’s arm?”

Such obnoxious legislative ideas, however, are never permanently wastecanned as unviable, as a day may always come when the public is softened up sufficiently to find them palatable. Since September 11, many bills long tucked away in a vest pocket have been tabled with alacrity because the government’s control freaks feel confident about discussing ideas that would have previously met with howls of derision. Such has been the case with the national ID card, which David Banisar, deputy director for Privacy International, likened to a case of herpes: “No matter how many times you try to treat it, it just keeps coming back.”

It should come as no surprise that, in the weeks following the attacks, anti-immigrant government officials, well-connected software executives, and suddenly prominent anti-terrorism experts all bandied the idea about with unusual nonchalance, probably encouraged by a September poll from the Pew Research Center indicating that 70 percent of the public would favor legislation mandating an ID card.

Few government officials have been more sanguine than Rep. George Gekas (R-PA), head of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims, who claimed that his office was being deluged with calls in support of the idea, and asserted that Congress can no longer reject the proposition out of hand. Gekas gloated that though “over the years, that kind of thing had been deemed to be like Big Brother, and therefore objectionable,” the recent attacks have made the political climate much more favorable to a national ID card. Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), who has long endorsed stricter immigration laws, hoped biometric information, like a fingerprint, could become a part of certain immigration documents, or even social security cards. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) was also interested in such proposals, according to aides.

Profit-hungry business executives have also stepped forward to endorse these proposals. Larry Ellison, Chairman and CEO of the Oracle Corporation, said in a television interview, “We need a national ID card with our photograph and thumbprint digitized and embedded in the ID card,” magnanimously offering to help develop the software necessary for a new national database, even should it risk placing his company in the path of a fat government contract.

Deborah Hurley, a counter-terrorism expert at Harvard University, made a more diplomatic pitch for doing away with privacy, declaring, “There’s a big space between the way we lived a few weeks ago and today. People tend to see it as either a swing into maximum-security mode or none at all” but that “there’s a lot of things we could do in between.”

Such soaring hopes were suddenly grounded in late September, when the Bush Administration announced that it would not support the creation of a national ID card. According to White House spokesman Jimmy Orr, President Bush was “not even considering the idea.” Though the announcement delighted many privacy advocates, some close observers have pointed out that the government is using less visible means to achieve similar ends. Troubling news items indicate that senior government officials, rather than pursue the provocative issue in public only to encounter some debate and resistance, are quietly negotiating deals with software companies to create a national ID card in effect, if not in law.

National ID card proponents, for all their rhetoric, have hinted as much. For instance, Rep. Gekas chortled that, in light of how state driver’s licenses have already been conformed to national guidelines, “for all

intentions and purposes we’re practically at the situation where the identity of every American is readily available.” Indeed, the standards that apply to driver’s licenses also apply to state identification cards, including a magnetic strip containing information the cardholder cannot readily read. In this manner, nine states and the District of Columbia already include some form of biometric information in their cards, embedded in the barcode. Some states are considering adding computer chips to their cards, which can store even more information and are also more difficult for the cardholder to read.

All this means boffo business for high-tech software and scanner companies. Scott Bahnemann, vice president of Logix Company, a scanning-device manufacturer, noted that he had held talks with federal agencies and the State Department in the days after September 11. Officials expressed hopes that scanning systems could help identify individuals on electronic most-wanted lists.

Couple these goals with recent reports showing that new data-sharing programs between government agencies were being announced as frequently as every two weeks as late as March 2001, and the possibilities became very grave: Any individual with whom the government finds fault could find themselves singled out for especially harsh treatment.

Does this sound too paranoid? Perhaps it can in an atmosphere where any healthy mistrust of government motives is drowned out by the deafening drum-beating of a nationalistic war-crazy media. Yet, a few news items are trickling in that suggest such gloomy conclusions aren’t all that far-fetched.

Take the case of Green Party organizer Nancy Oden, who, just after writing a strong anti-war piece for a Bangor, Maine, newspaper, tried to board a flight to a Green Party convention in Chicago. “I walked into the Bangor airport,” recounted Oden. “I went over to the American Airlines ticket counter way down at the end. Nobody else was there, except the clerk. I gave him my name... He put it into the computer. He stayed on the computer a long time, like 10 minutes. He put an ‘S’ on the boarding pass, for search. He said, ‘You’ve been picked for having your bag searched.’ ... I said to him, ‘This wasn’t random, was it?’ He said, ‘No, you were in there to be searched, no matter what.’”

Oden then described a harrowing experience, being yelled at and assaulted by a soldier, being surrounded by airport police and a half-dozen soldiers, and being refused her seat on the plane. “Of course I had cooperated,” Oden said of the search. “What I didn’t like was being singled out because of my political views... I never made it out of Bangor. I had to turn around and drive 100 miles back home... The fact that they gave the other airlines my name... They told me they did that... That’s incredible.”

Indeed, when things like this can happen – which sounds like something straight out of Ecuador – why should we trust the government to institute a national ID system – and why do they even need it in the first place? – Michael

SOURCES: Alexander Cockburn for the New York Press, Wired, Newsbytes, The Boston Globe

Watch Out! He’s Got a Book!

JOKING ABOUT BOMBS at an airport can get you arrested. As Ben Stiller’s character in *Meet the Parents* discovered, just saying “It’s not as if I have a bomb” can get you in trouble with the law. However, under the increased security of post-September 11, it can take far less.

Neil Godfrey found that out the hard way – when he dared to enter an airport carrying a book.

The book in question was *Hayduke Lives!* by Edward Abbey. It tells the story of a radical environmentalist, George Washington Hayduke III, who blows up objects and sabotages projects that he believes are destroying the

Southwest landscape. The cover illustration is of a hand holding several sticks of dynamite.

It was this illustration that caught the attention of a guard as Godfrey passed through the security gate at Philadelphia International Airport on October 10, traveling to his parents' home in Phoenix. Moments later, Godfrey was approached by a National Guardsman, who seized the book and asked why Godfrey was reading it. Soon Godfrey found himself surrounded by a dozen or so law enforcement officials, who examined his book for the next 45 minutes, questioning him about his trip and his background and taking notes.

"I was pretty shaken up," he said. "But I also felt guilty that I hadn't realized bringing this book to the airport may cause a problem."

Finding that Godfrey posed no security threat, the officers told him he would be allowed on the United flight. Apparently, airline officials weren't so easily satisfied. A United employee refused Godfrey admission to his flight – because of the book, because his ticket had been purchased on September 11 (although it was purchased several hours prior to that day's shocking events), and because his license had expired (which it hadn't).

Godfrey left the airport and, once at home, called his parents. When his mother called United Airlines to attempt to straighten out the matter, a reservation clerk booked Godfrey on another flight later in the day. Back to the Philadelphia airport Godfrey went, this time bringing *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* with him. He was quickly recognized by security officials and pulled aside. National Guardsmen poured over the fantasy novel for 20 minutes, perhaps concerned that the "prisoner" of the title referred to someone hijacked. Finally, their concerns about Godfrey assuaged, the guards told him he would be allowed on the plane but could not pass through security until 30 minutes before his flight. At that time, he was escorted through the gate – not to his flight, but to a private interrogation room. Doing a quick physical search, the guards found nothing, and released him. Despite being cleared for a third time by law enforcement, the nervous nellies at United still said no. Burt Zastera, supervisor of airport operations for United, told Godfrey he would not be allowed to fly.

"He told me he didn't know the reason why, that he was 'just conveying the information,'" Godfrey said. When Godfrey's father called the contact number provided by Zastera, he was told Godfrey was banned from flying United because he made "a joke about bombs" – an act, if true, that would have resulted in Godfrey's arrest.

Amazingly, paranoia over a passenger's choice of reading materials isn't limited to the U.S. Author Tariq Ali also found himself in hot water because of a book when he tried to fly out of an airport at Munich, Germany, on October 29.

At the security checkpoint, a guard searched through Ali's carry-on bag, examining his newspapers, magazines, and books, and became excited when he spotted the cellophane-wrapped *On Suicide* by Karl Marx – given to Ali by a local publisher during his visit. Ali's passport and boarding pass were confiscated, along with the Marx book, *The Times Literary Supplement*, and *Sued-deutsche Zeitung*, and he was escorted to the airport's police headquarters.

Along the way, the arresting officer triumphantly proclaimed, "After 11 September, you can't travel with books like this." To which Ali appropriately responded, "In that case, perhaps you should stop publishing them in Germany, or, better still, burn them in public view." After a period of being pushed around by the puffed-out chests of the airport police, Ali demanded to be allowed to use the phone, so he might call Christian Ude, Munich's mayor, whom Ali had interviewed a few days prior. "I wish to inform him of what is taking place," Ali told the officers.

Moments later, Ali was escorted back to his flight, without as much as an apology or an explanation. Unfortunately, like Neil Godfrey, most of us cannot so readily drop the name of a local government official to put us back on our travel plans. —Jerianne

SOURCES: *Philadelphia City Paper*, *The Independent* (London)

Municipalities Muscled into Internet Censorship and Snooping

IN LATE 1998, we noted an encouraging ruling from a Federal District Court judge who had struck down requirements for Internet blocking software at a public institution. Since that first heartening judgment, lawmakers have drafted many incarnations of different laws to 'protect' the public through the mandatory use of filtering software at public facilities, even when those resources are used by adults. Stymied by constitutionality issues, federal legislators huddled late in 2000 and broke for a classic end run – attaching federal funding to the mandated use of blocking software. Snickering with satisfaction after doing his part to ram 'protection' down Americans' throats, John Albaugh, chief of staff for Rep. Ernest Istook (R-OK) chuckled, "We drafted it to make sure it was constitutional."

Though those backing such software claim that it is ideal for protecting young people from the smut easily accessible on computer networks, opponents highlight the flawed thinking behind such rosy scenarios and speculate about other reasons more sinister than mere protection. Seasoned observers have shown how laughable the idea is that any consumer program can allow 'decent' content to flow freely to users while only sexual, violent, or otherwise illicit content is blocked. Recent hearings have shown that these programs have blocked access to content that is neither violent nor prurient, such as Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, and the sites of the National Rifle Association and reproductive rights associations, while allowing free access to sites like Operation Rescue. As we've pointed out before, the complexities of human language demand that such programs sweep too broadly and allow ideological issues to creep in. Though supporters of filtering software claim that imperfect protection is better than none at all, detractors are not satisfied. Chris Hansen of the American Civil Liberties Union points out, "The First Amendment doesn't have a 'good enough' requirement as part of it. Suppose we said it would be better than nothing for someone to go into Barnes and Noble and burn every tenth book. That sort of casual insensitivity to censorship is disturbing."

While tying requirements for blocking software to federal purse strings has forced most municipalities to adopt their use, in October 2001, San Francisco became the first major city to forego the funds and avoid compliance. San Francisco's firm policy of eschewing content filters was reaffirmed when the board of supervisors declined federal monies, and even approved a resolution backing a legal challenge to the new law. San Francisco, however, was in a position where mere principle was aided by strong circumstance, as it refused \$20,000, a tiny fraction of the city's estimated \$50 million library budget. For cash-strapped cities across the country, however, the choice will be a simple one: Accept the money and the terms, as computers are expensive. This final point should be noted soberly by some of the more irresponsible advocates of these expensive toys, as their costs and upkeep expenses give federal meddlers an easy hand in dictating what local libraries and schools may do with them.

Still more disturbing are recent reports that confirm the vague suspicions of filtering opponents that unpleasant guests would spill out of the Trojan horse of Internet safety. In January of 2001, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that the leading provider of filtering software to public schools was providing data on students' web use to the Department of Defense! Soft-pedaling concerns about student privacy, the folks at the software company N2H2 explained that, in order to recoup financial losses, the company had bundled information on students' Internet use habits and sold the data to a client, Roper Starch Worldwide, which then repackaged the information and sold it to the military to help them plan their new recruitment promotions. The executives behind these deals are quick to explain that they are not – at least currently – providing information on

individual students, but only producing reports that show general trends in discrete regions of the country.

The 'Reading, 'Riting, and Research' claims of these corporate parasites will probably do little to allay the concerns of Internet privacy advocates, but this chapter of the affair allows us to draw an instructive circle. The government, while doling out money collected from the people, holds it hostage while dictating how it will be used. Once the preferred plan is implemented, new developments come to light, of which one of the prime beneficiaries is, well, the government. As usual, the winners are the government and private business, and the people – who are paying for the whole thing – get less freedom, less choice, and less of that blasted *information* that everybody's talking about.

In closing, the more indulgent reader might grant a bit of license to this news editor, who has seen a stream of such stories over the years. Might it not be better if we simply abandoned computers as a medium of communication altogether? At least with paper, ink, light, and human interaction and observation, we can learn just as well – and with greater liberty because the means of control would at least then coat government and business time, resources, and money if they want to monitor us. Why not let *them* pay the piper for their desires? Or, as Lewis Mumford wrote 40 years ago:

"Instead of regarding man's relation to the air, water, soil, and all his organic partners as the oldest and most fundamental of all his relations – not to be constricted or effaced, but rather to be deepened and extended in both thought and act – the popular technology of our time devotes itself to contriving means to displace autonomous organic forms with ingenious mechanical (controllable! profitable!) substitutes." –Michael

SOURCES: *Evansville Courier & Press*, *Newsbytes*, *Wired News*

'You Can't Think That in School!'

THE THREE R's are important because he who can read, write, and figure has a good foundation for future learning, not just at the academy but on his own in life. The foundation gives more than 'job-skills' so a person can make change or do inventory in a stockroom – there's hope that one is able to use these tools to treat the world as a university and learn its lessons, sloughing off the immature prejudices of youth. Sadly, despite strong public interest in sound basics, schooling regularly fails to meet those most important goals of all.

Perhaps aware that they fail so miserably in fundamental education, today's schools have given education a strange parochial aspect in the service of goals that sound nice to the lazy ear: If teachers can't prepare all students for later learning, at least they can try to make them nicer people. The essence of this is unsettling. Should students be brought into compliance with a moral worldview at the expense of vital scholarship? After all, a parochial education seeks to inculcate dogma, to profess a scholarship founded not upon thought and reason but upon rote response and indoctrination. At the base of it, pedagoguism, no matter how lofty its overtures, rests upon a rejection of reason. Where math and English benefit from open inquiry, the cutest and cuddliest pedagogue quickly resorts to the switch. At the very worst, the pedagogue can be a harsh schoolmaster, an enemy of learning, fawning over obeisant imbeciles and punishing unorthodox students, willing to break a back to save a soul or to twist the rules to teach a lesson.

Take, for example, the case of five students at a Fitchburg, Mass., high school, who participated in a voluntary and anonymous school survey on race relations on campus. Students at the school had been asked to fill out

the questionnaires and hand them in without writing in their names. Shortly after this exercise, school officials had sifted out five questionnaires they deemed objectionable, combed through the answers to discover the 'anonymous' respondents' identities, ordered them from class for an interrogation, and then suspended them for three days for "behavior causing a dangerous condition" and for making "racist comments."

According to sources, the students' answers had included remarks that minorities at the school had been starting fights there and getting soft treatment from the staff. Certainly, such comments would seem to be a welcome addition to any survey on race relations. If the responses included some colorful language that startled the staff, they should be ridiculed if they didn't expect such results from an anonymous survey. It might rankle them to find responses betokening that they are failing at their efforts to produce an atmosphere of color-blind fellowship and might suggest that they aren't even competent in the prosecution of that endeavor.

We are, however, discussing pedagogues. As they have already abandoned reason in the pursuit of cosmetic solutions, it comes as little surprise that they would renege on their solemn vows when the opportunity for an inquisition or excommunication is so near in the offing. Unwilling to examine their failure, perhaps unable to reason out a more constructive solution, they lash out at the heretic.

This parochial aspect is even brought more clearly into view through the use of an anonymous survey as an involuntary confession. Even if you mouth the platitudes that spread smiles across teachers' faces, if you do not believe in your heart of hearts, you must be exposed and punished. Your mind is not your own!

We take heart at the news office to hear that these students have filed suit against the school district for suspension of due process and violation of their rights to privacy and free speech, seeking to have their suspensions expunged from their records. Attorney Beverly Chorbajian of the ACLU, which is filing the suit for the students, said, "The real crux of everything here is that the students were told their answers were confidential and that it was completely voluntary to respond."

While Chorbajian homes in on the salient feature of this fiasco, we can expect to see more situations like this until teachers stop abandoning logic in search of morality and trust students to build on the basics in life. –Michael

SOURCES: *Associated Press*, *Sentinel and Enterprise* (Fitchburg, Mass.)

Everyone's a Critic!

THIS JUNE, the Brooklyn Academy of Music sought to publicize its short film series by sending out 10,000 postcards featuring a still from a humorous short picture entitled *A Heap of Trouble*. The film, by filmmaker Steve Sullivan, is a harmless romp that follows the musical journey of nine middle-aged men, dressed only in black socks, as they walk through town singing, "Nine naked men walking down the road would cause a heap of trouble for everyone concerned." This deadpan dishabille is the sort of thing that only the British would find funny – and that only the Americans would find prurient.

When the Brooklyn Academy of Music's fulfillment agent sought bulk mailing permission from the United States Postal Service, Robert Grande of the Mailing Requirements department at the Staten Island Manor Road Post Office saw the postcard and called the mailing a "sexually oriented ad." We have seen the postcard at the news office, and it is perhaps the least sexy image we've seen in some time. It is a low-angle shot with a bicycle carelessly lying in the foreground, a row of suburban homes before a steel gray sky in the distance, and nine homely men with their nude backs to the camera. These men would arouse only the pity of the giddiest libertine – their balding pates, spindly legs, sagging bottoms, and poor posture are anything but enticing.

Furthermore, according to the United States Postal Service's Domestic Mail Manual, the definition of a sexually-oriented advertisement is "any advertisement that depicts, in actual or simulated form, or explicitly describes, in a predominantly sexual context, human genitalia, any act of natural or unnatural sexual intercourse... or any other erotic subject directly related to the foregoing." Despite the fact that the postcard featured no genitalia, no intercourse, and has all the sex appeal of a sick dog, Grande's declaration forced the Academy to drop the cards into envelopes to meet their time-sensitive goal of publicizing the series, rather than appealing the verdict.

So why is it that one can still send postcards of sandy hindquarters and saucy strippers through the mail? Such mail is First Class and not subject to prior review. When applying for bulk mail permission, however, the mail piece goes before Grande and his brethren for a bureaucratic inspection. As if it isn't enough to comply with hundreds of pages of rules on where to place barcodes and how to sort your mail according to arcane directions, bulk mailers must also submit to judgments from postal puritans as well.

Even had the institutions gone First Class, there may have been problems, as Grande clasps his hands behind his back and just short of threatens, "If (the mailing) was large volume and (a postal employee) happened to look at them, they might question it and send it to a postal inspector for clarification," adding, "If it violates the Postal Code that would go under the law, and the police would be involved. I wouldn't be." — Michael

SOURCES: *The Brooklyn Paper*

Yard Sale Today (\$500 Fine Tomorrow)

"Injustice, cruelty, restraint of conscience, oppression, falsity, dishonor, deceit, violation of law and equity? — But look how they have cleaned up the cities..."

—Johan Huizinga, 1936

IN THE YEAR 1517, Martin Luther posted his Ninety-Five Theses in public view, touching off the violent upheaval of the Reformation, which freed millions from the yoke of Rome and laid the groundwork for the blossoming of the Age of Reason. The fact that one poster could have started a chain of events that was to leave such an indelible mark on the Modern Age is a testament to the important, yet often unassuming, place the poster occupies in Western Civilization: an ideal form of human communication through which people can find everything from pithy critiques of terrible injustices to lost kittens.

Yet, it comes as small surprise that in our ill-named Information Age, the long and illustrious history of this humble workhorse of a medium is all but forgotten — and public officials can call it 'clutter' or 'visual pollution' with a straight face — even as huge billboards, imposing murals, blinding signage, skywriters, and on-vehicle ads relentlessly bombard the eye in any urban center.

In fact, so many crackdowns on postering have cropped up nationwide that a latter-day Luther could find himself booked for vandalism, graffiti, destruction of public property, and perhaps resisting arrest thrown in for good measure, before the nail were pounded a half-inch into the church door. One of the problems that make such ordinances difficult to organize against is their often selective enforcement, which leaves many residents unaware that they even exist. While the police may not cite or arrest a person taping up a poster for a lost dog or an apartment sublet, they may react differently to any broadsides from grassroots organizers or tenant groups. Even with posters writ large, such as billboards, a Highway Beautification Act may sit quietly on the books for years until a billboard with a potent political message touches off a frenzy of selective

enforcement. Whether the cops and council are cracking down on posters in your town or not, it is instructive to examine how these ordinances are proposed and passed around the country.

The situation often begins with a light ordinance and progresses from there. For instance, over a decade ago, the City of Seattle enacted a poster ban that criminalized posting fliers on public property. After putting up fliers became a criminal act, ambitious officials could point to a law being flouted, and therefore demand stricter enforcement. This happened when, in 1994, City Attorney Mark Sidran toughened penalties and raised fines to \$250.

The situation in Seattle is being soberly noted by activists, promoters, and residents of Portland, Ore., as that city has been working up an anti-postering plan of its own. In 2001, Portland Mayor Vera Katz put a program in the works to denude telephone poles of the ads, posters, and art that are tacked onto them daily. Though the city says it is taking suggestions on the plan from the public, such suggestions will be limited to tips on how to reduce postering, and the ultimate goal is less information posted in public. Still less encouraging is the fact that the mayor placed the project under the stewardship of the Graffiti Prevention Coordinator — illustrating how the municipality is apparently unable to make the distinction between clearly targeted public notices and the illegible scrawlings of egomaniacal spraypainters. Though officials insisted that the program was to be one of community prevention rather than punishment, it bears noting again that, how ever preventative and voluntary it purports to be, it opens the way for enforcement and penalties, which would be likely resorted to if the 'voluntary' leg of the program proved ineffective.

City officials, when asked why there was any necessity at all for programs to eradicate postering, first said that it was about aesthetics, suggesting that a few fliers on a utility pole are irritating to 'community members' — most likely those unhappy cranks and retired busybodies who have nothing better to do than to call police to complain about any noise or litter. If that first response doesn't prove convincing, officials may resort to so-called 'safety issues,' claiming that utility workers may be injured when encountering nails as they shimmy up poles, or even speculating that, if too many signs are posted, the poles may rot!

Such far-out explanations have prompted community organizers to form their own theories on why municipal governments object to such posters. Some believe that officials are aiming for a sterile appearance because they are placing the desires of wealthy developers above the needs of those who live in the community. Mark Piotrowski, an opponent of anti-flier laws in Gainesville, Fla., explained, "The city may well get complaints about fliering, but I am quite certain that the city gets complaints about a lot of things, from gas prices to traffic on Thirty-fourth Street. Some things they take action on, some things they don't... But there is a consistent pattern afoot. It seems that whenever there are 'problems' centered around the Student Ghetto, the Midtown area, or young people in general, the city can't wait to cram some changes down our throats."

Others point to a municipal bias against anything that is not controlled through city licensing or channeled through commerce. Municipalities freely contract space on everything from bus stop seats to municipal buses out to advertising agencies that pay a pretty penny for the space, but often the idea that the public may engage in more discreet advertising without buying a license or paying a cent can't seem anything other than illicit to these municipal meddlers.

It also bears noting that where officials have tried to enact 'compromise' solutions, they have often been more troublesome than the 'problem' was in the first place. For instance, in Seattle the poster ban included heartening provisions for dedicated poster kiosks to be used in lieu of utility poles as a forum for fliers. To the dismay of many, the city has dragged its feet to such extents that, almost a decade later, there are only two kiosks. Attempting to channel what had been freely posted on any telephone pole into two 10-foot square kiosks has created a ridiculous and artificial shortage of advertising space unequally distributed and concentrated in

two places. Due to the enforced scarcity, corporate-sponsored events' posters are rudely stapled up over dozens of smaller announcements whether they are outdated or not. The owner of a company that slaps up these posters told a local newspaper, "Because of the lack of space, a space where is going on here, and you don't know if your poster will even be up ten minutes."

Moreover, not only are people of limited means, who were previously free to post publicly over a wide area, now focused into direct competition with professional advertisers, but these kiosks are also privately run and managed by businesses that reserve the right to engage in arbitrary censorship.

These are all important things to bear in mind if your local city council starts up with any rumblings about 'beautification' efforts. Because the average person may lose a pet or rent a garret at some point in his life, it is one of the easier ordinances to battle. Through petition drives, organizing, and a strong presence at council meetings, activists in Gainesville, Fla., were able to force that city to loosen restrictions on fliering and thereby score a qualified victory for free speech. And, in the interests of those heroes in hardhats – utility workers – we are offering this ingenious suggestion on how to put up posters without tacks or nails. (We imagine that old Luther would be delighted.) –Michael

SOURCES: Portland Mercury, The Stranger

WHEATPASTING POSTERS around town is a great tactic to get radical messages where they need to go: before the public. Once a flyer has been wheatpasted to a light pole or utility box, it will stay up until someone scrapes it off. Stapling posters is much more temporary, and impossible in most modern downtown areas where wood telephone poles have all been removed.

The first and most important part of wheatpasting is to make a great flyer. ...You can either make your own paste or buy wallpaper paste at the hardware store. To make your own, pour one cup of flour into 1½ cups of water. Stir to remove all lumps, heat to boil until it thickens, and add more water until it turns into a thick, clear goop. Cook on low heat for at least half an hour, being careful not to burn it. It expands a lot; experiment. Some wheatpasters prefer store-bought because it is more consistent.

S Out on the street, use a wide paintbrush to spread the paste on the target surface and, for best results, on the back of the poster. Some people put paste over the top of the poster too, while others think this looks messy and doesn't help. Pay attention to getting the corners of the poster down – if they're not tight they'll make it easy to tear down.

One expert favors using a bike with a huge front basket to hold the bucket of paste, another suggests using an empty dishwashing soap bottle to squeeze the wheatpaste directly onto the brush. Having two people (one to handle paste, another to handle the posters) helps avoid getting paste on the posters, which can cause them to stick hopelessly together. Plus it's fun and someone can watch for the cops. Or, carry a rag to wipe your hands. Gloves are usually more trouble than they're worth. Postering on a bike can make escape a lot easier down alleys and one-way streets. Wheatpasting is the ultimate do-it-yourself radical propaganda weapon. Have fun!

(reprinted by permission from *The Slingshot Calender*.
slingshot@dojo.tao.ca)

Terror in your Mailbox

IN THE FALL OF 2001, something happened to fill zinesters with dread: The sanctity of our mail was violated.

Since October, five people – a Florida tabloid photo editor, two Washington postal workers, a New York City hospital worker, and an elderly Connecticut woman – have died and more than a dozen have fallen

ill as a result of anthrax-tainted letters. So far, no suspect has been named, although Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge has said that investigators do not believe the culprit was affiliated with those behind the September 11 hijackings. The USPS and the FBI have offered a reward of \$2.5 million, as of January.

The aftermath of the bio-attack has been severe: In part because of the nationwide paranoia over the once treasured act of opening a mailbox, mail volume has had the biggest decline in more than 30 years. The USPS has spent untold amounts on mailing 145 million postcards explaining how to handle suspicious mail, distributing informational flyers on identifying suspicious mail, testing postal facilities for possible contamination and sanitizing affected locations, and leasing irradiation facilities to zap targeted mail. The expense has put the postal service more than \$500 million in debt this fiscal year, forcing a massive reduction in staff (but no layoffs!) and a speed-up on the next postage rate increase – sending first-class stamps up to 37 cents, proposed for the end of June.

Don't expect the rate hikes to stop there. The agency was already beset with financial problems and severe inefficiencies; since the anthrax debacle, Postmaster General Jack Potter has come to Congress looking for a \$1.1 billion handout to buy protective equipment, irradiation and mail decontamination equipment, and other safety-ensuring devices. The congressional Committee on Government Reform wants to take matters even further, it's considering proposals to require postal customers to show identification before buying stamps and to implement a "smart stamp," which would have a barcode including information on who purchased the stamp, plus when and where it was bought.

"The Postal Service is facing an unprecedented threat," said committee member Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D-Cal.). "Bioterrorists are poisoning innocent Americans with anthrax by taking advantage of the anonymity of the mail."

Not rain, nor sleet, nor dark of night can stop the mail; neither can terrorists, promise the USPS. "The mail is an indispensable part of life – it is vitally important to the American economy and to individual freedom," proclaims the agency's website.

Take warning, zinesters, as you open your potentially suspicious letters (coming from unfamiliar sources, with handwritten addresses and misspelled names, bearing an unusual amount of tape) – the continued (in)convenience and safety of the mail is gonna cost you. –Jerianne

Childhood Declared Illegal

IN MARCH OF 2000, Jason Anagnos, a nine-year old student at East Hanover Central School in New Jersey, toyed with a pile of duck and soy sauce condiments left over from a family take-out dinner. Struck by irresistible inspiration, the youngster taped them together and christened the three-inch square object "The Swanton Bomb" in honor of a wrestling move featured on the World Wrestling Federation. Ticked with his new creation, he took it along on a school-sponsored field trip the next morning. Aboard the bus, young Jason revealed the strange object to his friend, Lucas.

"So you could, like, squish it and it would explode?" his friend asked.

Perhaps interested in preserving his handiwork, Jason replied uninterestedly, "Yeah, I guess."

The children's discussion was cut short as one of those safety-mad teachers hustled over to avert disaster, confiscating the cluster of condiments and rebuking the young pupil for behavior that could startle his classmates.

The next morning, Jason was summoned from a music class to the administrative offices, where the wrestling fan and little leaguer was greeted by the principal, his parents, and a cop, who began grilling the

youngster about "The Swanton Bomb." Jason was suspended for a week and ordered to undergo a psychiatric evaluation, which he passed with flying colors, returning to school the following week.

Apparently unwilling to let a good example to "teach a lesson" go to waste, a police detective registered a delinquency complaint the next month with New Jersey Superior Court, because Master Anagnos "did within the jurisdiction of this court knowingly construct a fake bomb... specifically by wrapping up several packages of duck sauce and soy sauce inside tissue paper, taping it up with clear tape and writing on it 'Danger Warning Swanton Bomb,' therefore in violation of NJS 2C:33-3." With charges filed, Jason and his family found themselves up against the justice system, with the parents averse to seeing their boy ground through a trial on a not guilty plea, unable to afford the thousands of dollars in legal fees, and frightened by the district attorney's grim warning that penalties would be stiffer if the boy were found guilty after a trial. In despair, the family saw no hope but the light sentencing of a guilty plea. Jason Anagnos was sentenced to a year of probation and ten hours of community service.

Before you ask, "What were they thinking?" it is important to remember that, in an environment of "zero tolerance" such as this, thinking has little place. It is official public policy that school administrators notify the police when they see a threat, or think they see a threat, and maybe even when they see something that could be construed by some especially jittery person as a threat. In fact, it is "zero tolerance" that can cause even reasonable teachers to worry about the possibility that they themselves may be disciplined, perhaps discharged, should they be found derelict of vigilance.

After the school administrators call the cops, the child is then ensnared in the web of menacing police, malicious detectives, ambitious prosecutors, and unsympathetic judges. When such resources are arrayed against children, it is little surprise that children are seldom the victors. It was a paranoid public horrified by the media hysteria surrounding the Columbine massacre that assented to this strong partnership between

teachers and cops, though now the jockeying newscasters and hustling camera crews aren't around to examine the grave toll such measures have entailed.

In New Jersey, this special 'cooperation' is especially rigorous. Steven Aden of the Virginia-based Rutherford Institute, a group monitoring abuses of school discipline, characterized the New Jersey as "the single most oppressive state in terms of enforcing zero-tolerance policies." Many observers think the state has gone too far, outlawing simple child's play. For example, two New Jersey students were charged last year with "making terrorist threats" for playing cops-and-robbers with paper guns. (See ARG #16.)

When questioned about the ludicrous case, John Dangler, head D.A. for the county, remarked, "I would rather be criticized for being overcautious than not."

For his part, Jason says, "They just don't know what they're doing... It just annoys me. They're dealing with nine- and ten-year-olds." —Michael

SOURCES: *The Wall Street Journal*

In Brief

FOLLOWING A THREATENING LETTER from the Xerox Corporation for alleged copyright infringement, Davida Gypsy Brier has changed the name of her review zine from Xerox Debt to Xerography Debt. Xerography refers to the "electrostatic dry-printing process for the reproduction of images or documents, widely employed in commerce and industry in copying machines," Brier explains on her website, www.leekinginc.com.

"Just in case anyone was under the delusion that I 'and/or [my] company is a subsidiary of or in some way associated with Xerox,' this is a malicious and completely untrue allegation. I get the heebie-jeebies just thinking about it!" Brier said.

ZINE WORLD: A READER'S GUIDE TO THE UNDERGROUND PRESS

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ZINE WORLD: A READER'S GUIDE TO THE UNDERGROUND PRESS
"Free speech is for everyone."

NEW ADDRESS!

LETTERS

All letters received are assumed to be for possible publication. We reserve the right to edit your letters for grammar, length, clarity, or just to make you look dumb. Write to: *Zine World*, PO Box 330156, Murfreesboro TN 37133-0156 or jerianne@undergroundpress.org.

Just about all my ads in the current issue of ARG have been rendered useless (the web sites and e-mail address mentioned therein are no longer active) due to your review zine's crappy and cruddy publishing schedule. If ARG were a *monthly* publication, that wouldn't be the case. Of course I can't tell you guys how to run your publication, so I won't. Besides, nobody buys my zines nor visits my web sites so it's very unlikely that ARG readers will even pay attention to my now-inaccurate ads.

—Yul Tolbert, No-Pest Strips and other titles
PO Box 02222, Detroit MI
48202-9998

I certainly can't tell you how to run your publication, either, but it seems to me that if I were investing money into advertising and promoting email addresses and websites, I wouldn't go changing them after just a couple of months.

I'd be happy to put this zine – and it is a zine, you know, not a “normal” magazine, which might be expected to come out precisely in the first week of every month – on a more regular schedule, if someone out there wants to become the zine's benefactor and pay me a salary. I sure as shit am tired of looking for a decent full-time job; I'd much rather just get paid for the 20+ hours I spend each week on this publication, so I could concentrate on it exclusively. Hell, I could make publishing this zine my full-time job. Plus we can start giving stipends to the staff, so they could also spend more time writing reviews, dredging up news, pasting up the layout, etc. You bet your ass it would come out more often, if that were the case.

I realize with today's frantic lifestyles, people have come to expect immediate gratification. I'd like to think that some things are still worth waiting for. We're doing the best we can, with no more payment than the warmth it brings our hearts (or egos).

—Jerianne

Just a suggestion: You give a

review, list the zine name, address, etc., but a lot of the time you don't give the zine person's name. How about giving us our full stamps-worth???

—Name withheld
San Francisco, CA

We do provide the editor/publisher/author's name, when it is provided to us.

—Jerianne

Hey, it's Katherine, I'm the co-editor of *Zine Guide* out here in Chicago. We just got the recent issue of ARG here (#16), it's looking good.

However, I was puzzled that you didn't mention *Zine Guide* in your article about the Factsheet Five handoff. In the article, Low Hug's A.J. Michel is quoted as saying, “Those outside of the zine community... need an easy doorway into the community... [and] could use a readily available publication to teach them about zines.” I think *Zine Guide* is that publication. Where's our cred?

I liked the article about Ted Gottfried. It was a shining example of good zine journalism. Keep up the good work (just don't forget about us, yo!).

—Katherine Raz,
Zine Guide/Tail Spins
Box 5467, Evanston IL 60204

I was sorry to read of recent death in your family – I know what a hard time that can be to go through. All my sympathy to you and yours, and I hope things are going well in your new location.

I just got ARG #16, and am enjoying it very much. I especially liked the article by Iris Arnesen, and plan on checking out *The Opera Glass*, even though I can't say I'm a big opera fan. Once again, you have a really interesting mix of news, reviews and zine info.

—Kate, Miranda
3510 SE Alder St.,
Portland OR 97214

Have you ever considered adding an online store to your site? I just got set up

with PayPal and it was easy and free. I only get charged (30 cents plus 2.9% of the order total) when I make a sale. Can't beat that.

—Clint Marsh
San Francisco CA

I'd personally be kind of wary doing that, and I think most of our staff would be against it. We see our website as an information vehicle only. I didn't read the whole Terms of Use on PayPal's website, but this is what I specifically would have problems with:

“In order to withdraw funds that PayPal is holding in custody for you, you must confirm the email address that your registered by responding to a message that PayPal will send to that address when you have completed registration, and you must register a bank account or credit card with PayPal.”

ARG does not have a bank account, nor a credit card, and I'm not comfortable in using my own.

“You may withdraw funds by direct deposit into your bank account or by physical check. To cover the cost of processing checks, PayPal charges \$1.50 per check withdrawal. Check withdrawals will not be sent to PO Box addresses.”

We charge \$4 per issue. If I wanted a physical check, I'd be losing half my cost to cover the check. I can't use ARG's address, which is a PO Box, which means I'd have to use my personal street address. And we're back to the whole bank account problem.

The zine is a print zine, and our dealings are through the mail, except for a few stores that have seen fit to work with us. I suspect it will stay that way for quite a while. Thanks for the suggestion, though!

—Jerianne

Hello. Thanks for letting me know that *Smitten Kitten* #6 has been reviewed in the latest ARG. I had completely forgotten about sending a copy in for review, it must have been well over a year ago that I sent it. Unfortunately, the address in that zine is out of date, and the forward for it has long since run out. The

e-mail smitten.kitten@gurllmail.com is also no longer valid. I check it once a month or so just in case there's something there, but the account will soon be completely cut off as gurllmail is now having paid accounts. So I guess if anyone tries to contact me through ARG they won't be able to. I have read previous issues and think you all do a wonderful job, and understand that it is hard to keep up with stuff, but maybe you shouldn't review zines if it's going to be over a year because addresses and things can change. I'm not having a bitch or anything, it's just constructive criticism. I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels this way. I really do appreciate that you took the time to get back to me and I will still pick up a copy of the zine.

—Kristy,

Smitten Kitten Zine and Distro
PO Box 1179, Blackburn North, VIC
3130 Australia
<http://tbns.net/smittenkitten>

Thanks for the feedback. I'm sorry the review of your issue got delayed. The review should have run in #15, which came out back in the spring, but the reviewer who was assigned your zine was late turning in his reviews. Unfortunately, that happens sometimes, especially with an all-volunteer staff. We're trying to get more timely with the reviews (a certain lag is unavoidable), but I think it is uncommon that it takes so long for a review to run as yours apparently did.

—Jerianne

I'm thinking of incorporating the last line of Gordon's review into a slogan for the zine: "Low Hug: Unpretentious and honest, though not necessarily exciting, since 1998."

Actually, I dug the review. Thanks for quoting me in the F5 article as well. A new issue of Low Hug should be out by year's end, hopefully. Another great issue, by the way. I've already got it all highlighted and marked up with stuff I want to order/trade. Hope you're settling into TN well.

—A.J. Michel, Low Hug
Station A, PO Box 2574, Champaign
IL 61825-2574

Constructive criticism department: You *really* need a better system to alert subscribers when their subs are up, etc. I have *no clue* as to when my sub ran out, if I missed any issues, etc. You have to understand that zine people not only do their publications, but have jobs, social

lives, and other creative outlets and you need to *dramatically* have something within the issue stating *subscription expired* so people like myself who *want to* support your publication, can.

—Evan Ginzburg, Wrestling Then

And Now

PO Box 640471, Oakland Gardens
Station, Flushing NY 11264

I appreciate your criticism. Our practice has been to include a note on the envelope, usually on the address label itself, which indicates the last issue in a person's subscription. For example "Your subscription ends with #20" or "Your subscription ends with this issue, please renew." It makes it a lot easier on me, when I'm doing the initial mass mailing. But, you're right. I could see that this would make it easy for people to lose track — as soon as they get the new issue, they throw the envelope away, and a month later they've forgotten when their subscription ends. We'll work on that.

—Jerianne

I can't believe I've been doing a zine for over 4 years and that I only just found out about your zine at Quimby's a few days ago while vacationing in Chicago for the holiday! I read the whole issue (#14) from cover to cover on the bus ride back to NYC and had a blast doing so! You guys are so funny! And I can really appreciate your bluntness. I especially love all your little notes and instructions which I'm sure may seem annoying and redundant to some but I know are also necessary. (People can be pretty thick-skulled for sure! I should know, too, I work in a juice bar where I hear some of the stupidest, most redundant questions ever all day long!)

—P.5!, Pussy Magazine

305 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn NY
11211

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have recently learned of your available employment opportunity and would like to submit my resume for your review. I am a highly motivated, organized individual with a strong and dedicated work ethic.

I have been in the entertainment industry providing my expertise in special events (including marketing and promotions) for over 6 years and would love the opportunity to meet with you to further discuss how my qualifications could compliment your company's needs.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Thank you in advance for your

consideration and have a wonderful holiday season!

—Christi Allen
Los Angeles, CA
(resume attached)

We are not a company. We have no "employment opportunities." We have an all-volunteer staff — even I don't get paid. I don't know where you heard of us or how you got my address, but I am curious. Needless to say, I don't think we're what you're looking for.

—Jerianne

Please renew our subscription to A Reader's Guide to the Underground Press. I have enclosed \$20 for the next four issues (keep the change).

—Tom Eland, Library Coordinator
Minneapolis Community &
Technical College
Library Zine Collection
1501 Hennepin Avenue,
Minneapolis MN 55403

PS: We hope to have our library zine collection index up on the web by January. The index will be searchable by anyone with a web browser. We have about 1,200 zines and are adding new zines all the time. The index will allow people to search zines by author/editor, title, subject heading, and keyword (which will search the abstract field that we are adding to many of the zine records). The zines will be for use in our library only, but we will be getting software that will allow us to scan zines and send the image to other libraries in the country. The software is part of most academic library and some large public library interlibrary loan services. We hope to have this feature working next fall and it will help us distribute zines to other library patrons (at least at some college and university libraries). The zine index will be available at

www.mctc.mnscu.edu/library/pages/alternative.htm. The page is currently available and has links to other alternative resources as well. We also allocate 15 percent (about \$25,000) of our library materials budget to purchase alternative press books, videos, audiotapes, and periodicals every year. This material can be located in our online library catalog, and we do interlibrary loans of the material to patrons, through their public libraries, across the country.

Please include this information in your Change of Address column.
Adventures of an Unemployed

Entomologist is no longer in publication, but for correspondence and back issues, please write to PO Box 541396, Waltham MA 02454. Apologies to anyone who wrote in recent months to my old address in Worcester – I did not receive your mail.

–Unemployed Entomologist

Hi, I do not understand the terms of payment, sorry I'm thick that way! Can I send a story, or are you a closedshop like everywhere else.

–Eric Milne, via email

Umm... What's not to understand? If you want to buy a copy of our zine, and you live in the US, you send us \$4 in cash (4 \$1 bills) or stamps (12 34¢ stamps or 4 \$1 stamps or 19 21¢ stamps or some other combination), or a money order with "pay to the order of" left blank.

We do offer copies to contributors. When you say "can I send a story," what kind of "story" are you talking about? The only contributions we accept are columns (on topics related to independent publishing or DIY or of interest to those involved in those things) and artwork, generally.

Let me know if I can provide you with more information...

–Jerianne

Hi. I just got your email news and whoah, you are now in the middle of Middle Tenn., the 'Boro. How'd that happen? I'm just a zine fan and sometimes writer who lived in the greater Nashville area for a dozen years or so. I went to high school in Outer Tobacco Patch, Tenn. (Springfield), a bit north of Nashville, and I must say I spent many an eve driving down to Murphy Center for arena rock back in the day (forgive me – Bryan Adams, Barry Manilow [! I took my Mom], Elton John, Billy Joel, Def Leppard, U2 [Wynonna Judd got onstage to sing with the boys on "People get Ready" dressed head-to-toe in white leather – looked like a big Alka Selzer wearing a cowboy hat], and others).

Are you employed by/a student at MTSU now? If not, then why the hell are you there? Not that it's a true pit, just seemed kind of bland when I would visit. Of course, now you are close to Starwood Amphitheater, so you can go to the Jimmy Buffett shows with ease. That must be it. I don't know if you have contacts in

Nashville to help you find some actual culture, but if not, let me suggest: ...

Good Luck, drive a truck. Heh

–Bob Toevis
Somerville, MA

Well, actually, I'm originally from Tennessee. I had moved to California a couple of years ago on a lark, cause I'd always wanted to live there. Decided to move back to Tenn. to be closer to family. As for why Murfreesboro, the main reason was because my boyfriend and I had several friends who live here, including his brother, and a close friend of mine from California (with whom I'm in a band) also moved here.

–Jerianne

Hi! This is Nate Dogg, editor of the zine Ad Hominim. You obviously didn't like my zine, which is fine. Neither does Maximumrocknroll or Slug & Lettuce or Arise. That's not an issue with me. I didn't start Ad Hominim thinking I'd get an ego boost out of it. I know you review zines for free, which is a thankless job and for that I commend you.

However, I do feel your opinions were non-factual in some circumstances. Normally, I even let that slide but, seeing as how I've always looked up to ARG, it pissed me off slightly:

1. You mention how my articles on the W.T.O. stealing Canada's water, how to perform a coffee enema at home, and Al Gore's links to Ken "God Hates Fags" Phelps are "typical stuff." Honestly, even in the wide world of zines, who puts those 3 things together? For the record, Jen of Fucktooth paid me \$35 to write that water article for Clamor and also reprinted the coffee enema article as well. She did not describe either of the articles as "typical."

2. I *am* indeed guilty of using a monkey drawing done by Carrie McNinch in the background of the intro page. Since it was heavily obscured and only used as a background, I didn't feel it was worthy of a mention. The Assassin And The Whiner, incidentally, is a great zine.

3. The Lincoln/Kennedy conspiracy comic was taken from a now-out-of-print conspiracy mag I found in the bargain bin at a comic book store. I tried, in vain, several times to obtain permission from the publisher to reprint it. Assuming he was dead and no one cared, I printed it. Had I known the dreaded D.C. owned the thing, I never would have read it in the

first place.

4. Shannon Wheeler was paid and was thanked on the intro page (you know, the one where you found the monkey drawing?) as are all guest cartoonists. I am many things, but never rude to my contributors.

Feel free to publish this in the letters section, if you so desire. Otherwise, I still love ARG and will continue to send in review copies. Due to being laid off and being thousands of dollars in debt on the zine and the distro, Ad Hominim's final swan song, #14, will be released on March 1st. Thanks for the support. Keep up the fight, it's a good one.

–Nate, Ad Hominim
175 Malcolm Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414

We miss hearing from our old pathetic friend, Doug. Is he still alive? If he died, did he leave us anything?

–Mark Maynard, Crimewave U.S.A.
PO Box 980301, Ypsilanti MI 48198

The last time I mentioned to Doug that some people had inquired of him, he said: "Tell them I'm dead. But tell them to buy my book, which will be published posthumously."

–Jerianne

Greetings anew from Texas, the gulag state. Yep, I'm still locked up and hating it, but it could be worse: I could be Arab-looking, young, and free!

First of all, I want to offer my sincere condolences on your recent loss. May you truly find the peace that comforts profoundly.

I also wanted to comment on the "announcement" of sorts in re: that prisoner who just got out that you warned readers about. Of course I am referring to the perv who had a penchant for young gals and all that. It's dudes like that who fuck it up for the rest of us cons. In here where I am, people of that nature are dealt with in a harsh manner. They have no opinion or, if they do, it's only to an audience of other molesters and not robbers, murderers, and the like. Thanks for pointing the guy out, Jerianne. I am a sincere believer in zines and hate those who screw it up for those of us who do care.

–Rick Mogan
Walls Unit, Huntsville TX

Grant Schreiber's Pigworld

WE ARE CURRENTLY IN A REVOLUTION, but it is a rebellion of the government against its own citizens. It would be a mistake to place blame for this revolution solely upon the Bush-Ashcroft-Rumsfeld team, but they are certainly accelerating the process. The government's distrust of the people has been growing since the late 1960s, but the potential for the widespread abuses of power we're witnessing was created on March 9, 1933. President Roosevelt signed the War and Emergency Powers Act and gave the President the

power to seize property; organize and control the means of production; assign military forces abroad; institute martial law; restrict travel; and pretty much do whatever he pleases in a state of declared national emergency. That national emergency is now running on 69 years.

From those broad-based powers,

military tribunals, summary executions of undesirables, a return of sedition laws, and the spying on individuals become not only logical extensions, but inevitable. It's not surprising that Bush's team is handling these powers clumsily, they are still new to the game of total control. The real surprise is in the lack of solid opposition to them.

The steamrolling over citizen rights was explained by one of the masters of crowd manipulation, Nazi Field Marshal Hermann Goering. At his trial he stated: "Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifist for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger." Sounds frighteningly familiar, doesn't it?

What's equally frightening is the willingness of people to trust their government no matter what - to believe that despite the open hostility towards them the government still holds their best interests at heart. It is the complacency of the citizens that ultimately allows a government to run amok. In Milton Mayer's 1966 work *They Thought They Were Free*, an interview with a professor (edited here by Sam Smith) reveals how the process of complacency allowed the fascists to take control:

What happened was the gradual habituation of the people, little by little, to be governed by surprise, to receiving decisions deliberated in secret; to believe that the situation was so complicated that the government had to act on information which the people could not

understand, or so dangerous that, even if people could understand it, it could not be released because of national security. - The crises and reforms (real reforms too) so occupied the people that they did not see the slow motion underneath, of the whole process of government growing remoter and remoter.

To live in the process is absolutely not to notice it - please try to believe me - unless one has a much greater degree of political awareness, acuity, than most of us ever had occasion to develop. Each step was so small, so inconsequential, so well explained or, on occasion, "regretted."

Believe me this is true. Each act, each occasion is worse than the last, but only a little worse. You wait for the next and the next. You wait for one shocking occasion, thinking that others, when such a shock comes, will join you in resisting somehow.

Suddenly it all comes down, all at once. You see what you are, what you have done, or, more accurately, what you haven't done (for that was all that was required of most of us: that we did nothing) ... You remember everything now, and your heart breaks. Too late. You are compromised beyond repair.

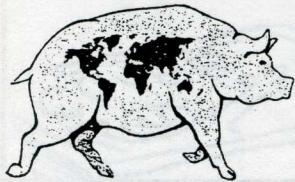
"Compromised beyond repair" is an apt description for our media. Without a free press, without a fourth estate to keep an eye out on the doings of the government, the public is rendered blind, deaf, and dumb. By stating, repeatedly, "You are either with us or on the side of terrorists," Bush is making sure there can be no dissenting opinion. This fear of dissent runs so deeply, that on Nov. 11 the dreadful Lynne Cheney, wife of the shadowy vice president, and her group, the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, denounced several university professors and campus speakers for "unpatriotic beliefs."

The ACTU report, *Defending Civilization: How Our Universities are Failing America and What Can be Done About It*, is little more than a laundry list of recent quotes framed in the most damaging light possible. While claiming to be in favor of the "free exchange of ideas," the ACTU makes clear the only ideas they want exchanged are those in full support of military action, consumerism, and American Imperialism. The report is placed under the Orwellian *The Defense of Civilization Fund* as they, and they alone, make their first bold step to save All Mankind - and they do it in only 21 pages! This terrible farce would be laughable if they weren't so deadly earnest and in power.

Of course, no petty dictatorship would be complete without an assault on the intellectuals. It is an attitude that sits sadly well with Americans since being rich is far more important than being smart. What good is it to know the works of Shakespeare? Or to understand Latin? Or to be able to argue the finer details of the Constitution? There's no money in it. Who are you going to believe, some white-haired history prof in a rumpled tweed jacket or a businessman in a sharp blue suit, clean white shirt, and perfect red tie? The only culture that is worth knowing is the consumer culture. The only desire worth having is the desire for things. Celebrations of Greed have replaced our holidays, and every 'credible threat' of an attack somewhere, somehow, sometime should in no way interfere

This issue

"The Freedom to Obey --- Without Question"



with our God Given Right to go shopping.

When selfishness becomes a political force, it is known as Fascism. Instead of having jackbooted soldiers marching row upon row in beautiful formation, we have business news updates and market reports all day long.

The main thrust behind the Nazis was German Identity. American Fascism is based entirely upon American Greed, although it certainly helps if you're white, male, and had a daddy who was making lots of money by the time of your birth. But even if you're within the minority, if you play the game, the system will reward you after years of labor. Keeping your eyes downcast, your opinions to yourself, and showing proper enthusiasm towards all things patriotic are traits to be encouraged under the current regime.

All this makes dissent a lot easier. Simple acts now can take on a more profound meaning. But don't fool yourself. For the vast majority of Germans, the Nazis were not overly repressive. As long as one played the game, one was left alone. It was okay to mock some of the Nazi platforms and depending on who you were, to openly denounce the government. The reason for this was the Nazis didn't worry about the little people buzzing beneath them. Therefore, they could allow an angry priest his weekly sermon against them and besides it

would disrupt the community too much to have the priest removed. Keep things calm. Keep things simple. The role of the government was to keep everyone's attention elsewhere. Suddenly, pumping oil out of Alaska is a National Concern and to be against it is to be against the war effort. The Nazis became masters of bait-and-switch domestic policies. The Bush team is learning fast. The dog-and-pony show Ashcroft and the Senate performed was a fine example. All questions about the possible use of military tribunals have been "satisfied." Living in a police state doesn't require a policeman at your door. Don't fool yourself into thinking because I've written this and because you've read it that we're in a Free Land.

SOURCES:

<http://prorev.com/freeus.htm> - Sam Smith's amazing site. Highly recommended. *They Thought They Were Free*, Milton Mayer, 1966 edition. *Derailing Democracy*, David McGowan, 2000, Common Courage Press. The ACTA report can be read at www.goacta.org.

Grant Schreiber, publisher of *Judas Goat Quarterly*, can be reached at 1223 W. Granville #2N, Chicago IL 60660 or by email at egospark1@juno.com.

Zine Hall of Fame

2001 INDUCTEES

by Tom Hendricks, *Musea*

DRUMROLL! FANFARE! It is time to introduce this year's group of inductees to the Zine Hall of Fame (our seventh year with a total of 57 inductees so far). We salute this group of zinesters and their vast talents and solid achievements! Included are the current (or last known) addresses.

Snackbar Confidential: A playful zine from Willard Dribbleman about snacks and anything else cheesy: B-movies, fluff-filled TV sitcoms, goofy ads from the 60's and 70's, etc. *PO Box 895, Saratoga Springs NY 12866 (\$3 cash)*

Lynne Lowe & Mike Tolento: These two are an item, so I'm listing them as a single item. Lynne is recognized for zines *Java Turtle*, *Blackgirl Stories*, and her hosting of the Santa Barbara Zine Fest, and Mike for his comic zine *Empty Life*, comix review zine *Assblaster*, and more. *PO Box 20028, Santa Barbara CA 93120 (\$2 most titles)*

Auto Free Times (now titled *Culture Change*): A zine about ending the devastation from cars with solid news stories on the downside of urban sprawl and its traffic, smog, land paving, bike and pedestrian hating, environmentally damaging ways. *PO Box 4347, Arcata CA 95518*

Brooklyn: Fred Argoff's loving tribute to his hometown of Brooklyn. Cross the Brooklyn Bridge and enter Fred's World! *1800 Ocean Pkwy. #B-12, Brooklyn NY 11223-3037 (\$2.50)*

Ran Prieur: Zines include: *Third Hemisphere* (\$3), *Superweed* (\$3), *Civilization Will Eat Itself* (\$1), etc. The titles may change but the content is usually the innovative, wide-ranging, and sometimes challenging philosophy of Ran on his life, current events, and much much more - all in a perzine format. *PO Box 45564, Seattle WA*

98145

U.L.A. (Underground Literary Alliance): A six-member collective: King Wencas, Michael Jackman, Doug Bassett, Ann Sterzinger, Joe Smith, and Steve Kostecke, who have instigated opposition to the stranglehold of American Publishing and its inept authors and poor writing. Karl Wencas (or King Wencas) is the founder of the ULA and editor of the zines *New Philistine* (45 issues), *Zine Beat*, *Pop Literary Gazette*, *Literary Fan Magazine*, etc. *ULA, PO Box 42077, Philadelphia PA 19101-2077*

The Opera Glass: A passionate zine from Iris J. Arneson, about all things opera related: opera synopses, books and literary sources of opera, musical history, articles on instruments of the orchestra, the art of the Lied, behind the scenes info and gossip, letters from the readers, and more. *PMB 134, 1830 E. Broadway Blvd. #124, Tucson AZ 85719 (free/donation)*

Ped Xing Comics: Mini comics from Androo Robinson, with each a single story that is not only expertly drawn artwork, but also intriguing stories, often with a bittersweet message. *PO Box 9781, Wyoming MI 49509 (\$1 most titles)*

ANY ZINE is eligible if it fits these two requirements: The zine or zines by the zinester must have been printed on a somewhat regular basis for at least three years, and the zine must be of very high quality. Others are noted for their outstanding contribution to the zine community.

Please send your zine nominations or comments about the list to Tom Hendricks, (*Art S Revolutionary*), 4000 Hawthorne #5, Dallas TX 75219, or 112374.474@compuserve.com. For a complete list of all inductees, including excerpts from some zines, visit <http://musea.digitalchainsaw.com>.

MAKING PAPERBACK BOOKS BY HAND.

by Daniel Nevenburg. APRIL 2001

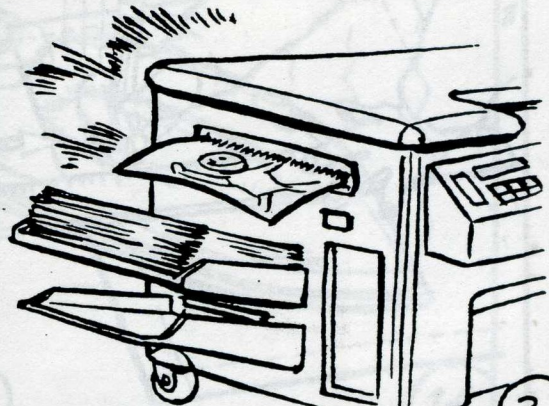
ESTIMATE BOOK THICKNESS BY STACKING PAPER EQUAL TO $\frac{1}{2}$ TOTAL PAGE COUNT AND MEASURE THE RESULT.



THIS WILL AID IN COVER DESIGN. 1

PRINTING INTERIOR PAGES.

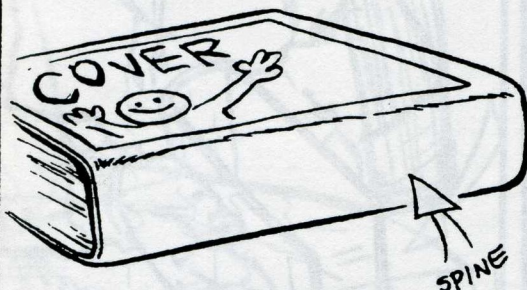
THIS CAN BE DONE ON ANY COMMON COPY MACHINE OR PRINTER.



2

PRINTING THE COVER.

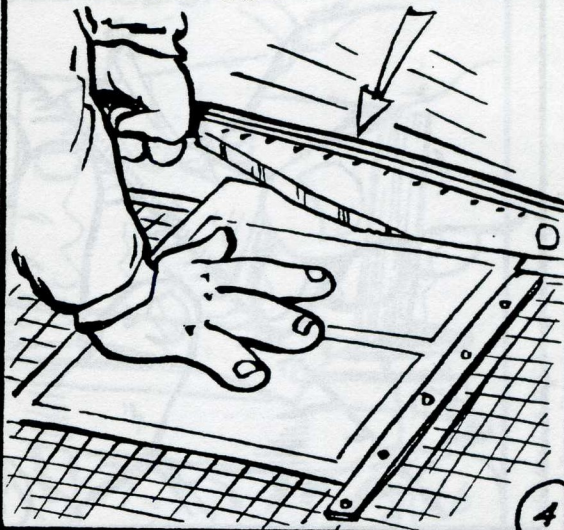
REGULAR PHOTO-COPY TONER MELTS DURING THE BINDING PROCESS AND CAN SMEAR.



TO AVOID THIS PROBLEM USE AN INKJET PRINTER OR LEAVE THE SPINE OF YOUR BOOK BLANK.

3

TRIM INTERIOR PAGES TO THE DESIRED SIZE.



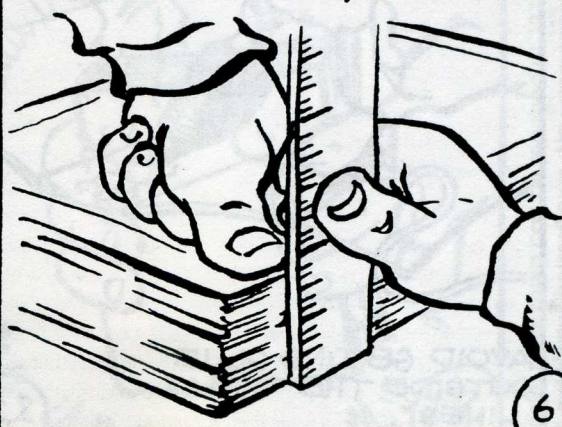
4

ARRANGE INTERIOR PAGES IN CORRECT ORDER.



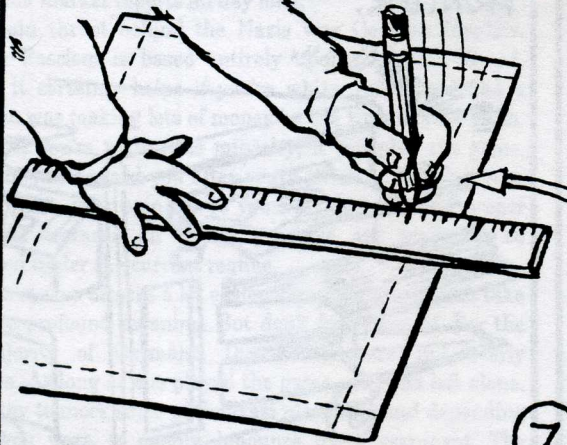
5

MEASURE THE EXACT THICKNESS OF THE INTERIOR PAGES. THIS MEASUREMENT WILL BE USED TO MARK THE "FOLD LINES" FOR THE SPINE OF YOUR BOOK.

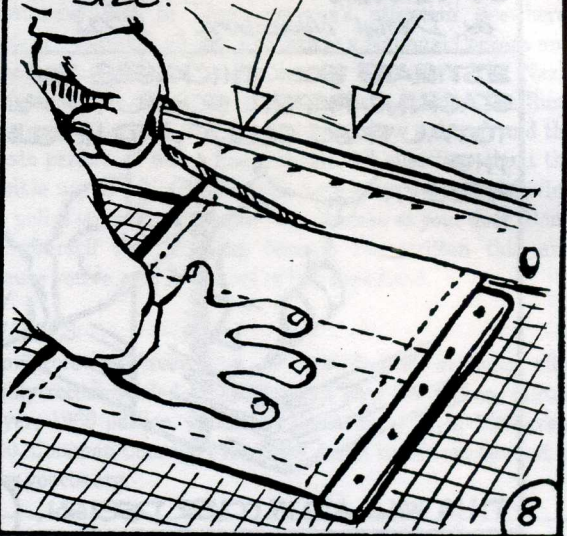


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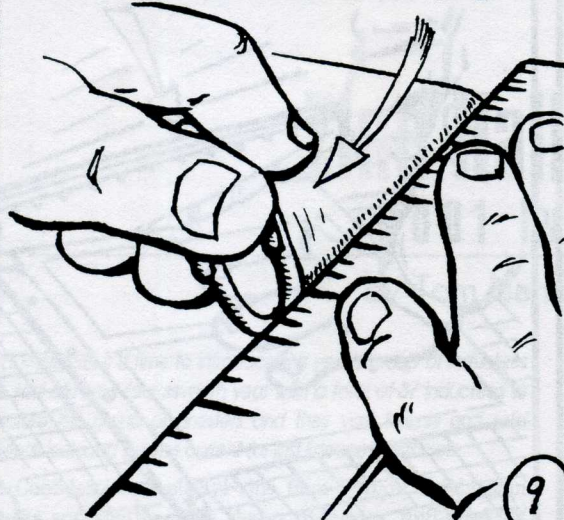
USING THE MEASUREMENT FROM THE PREVIOUS STEP, MARK THE EXACT WIDTH OF THE SPINE ON THE INSIDE OF THE COVER.



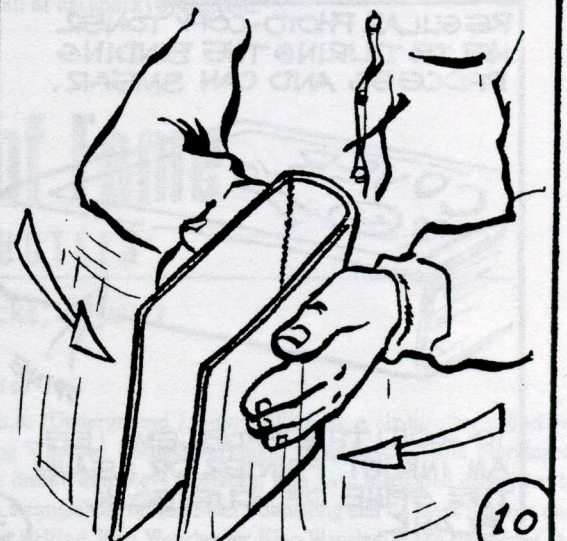
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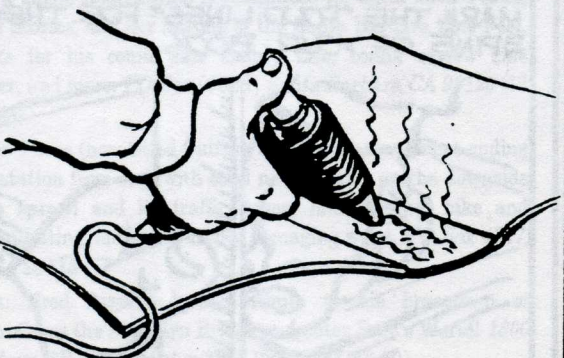
USE A METAL PAPER CLIP TO SCORE THE "FOLD LINES".



FOLD THE COVER.

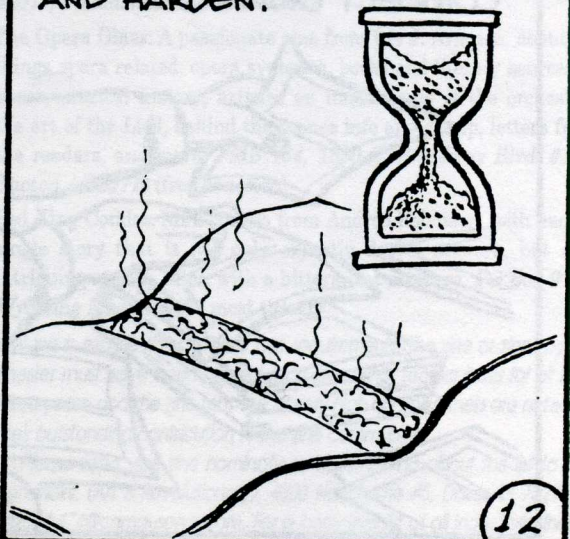


USE A "GLUE GUN" TO APPLY A THICK, EVEN LAYER OF GLUE TO THE INSIDE OF THE SPINE.

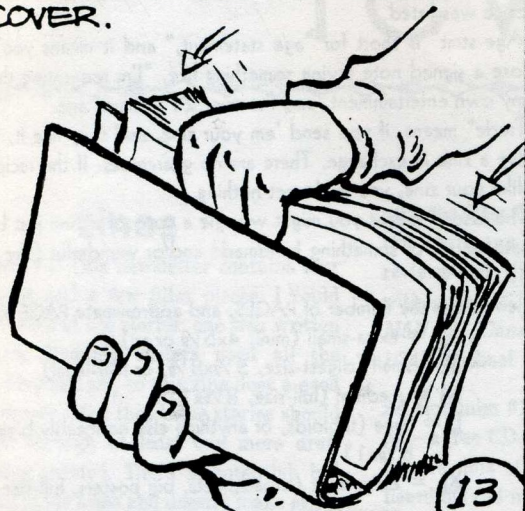


AVOID GETTING GLUE OUTSIDE THE "FOLD LINES".

ALLOW THE GLUE TO COOL AND HARDEN.

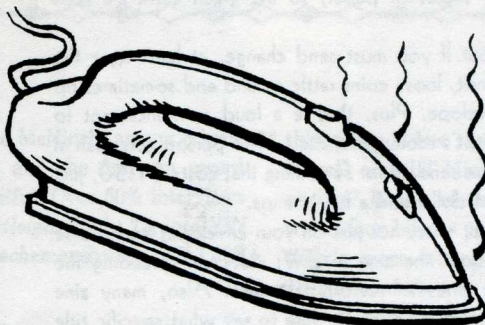


PLACE THE PREARRANGED
INTERIOR PAGES INTO THE
COVER.

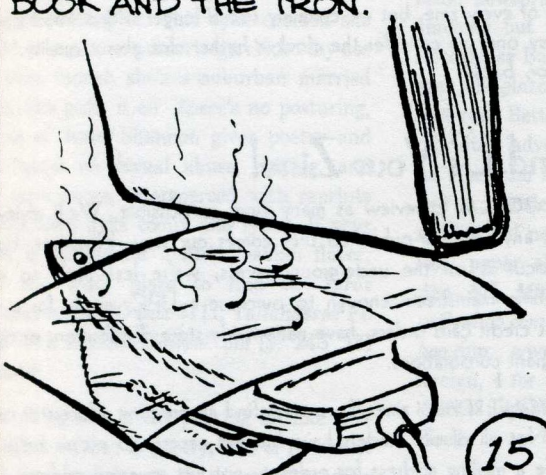


**YOU ARE NOW READY TO
BIND YOUR BOOK.**

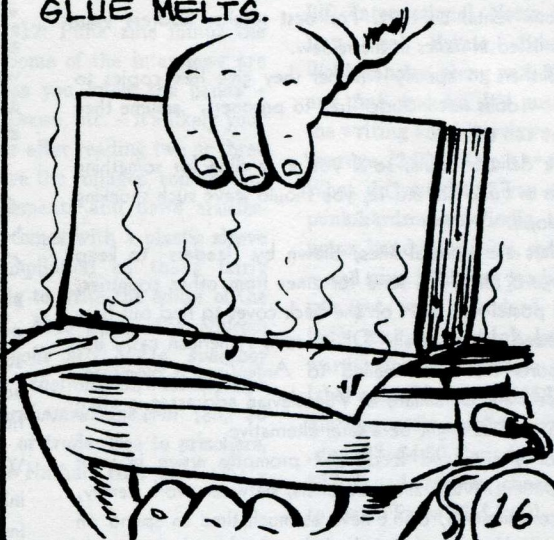
YOU WILL NEED A COMMON
CLOTHES IRON TO DO THIS.



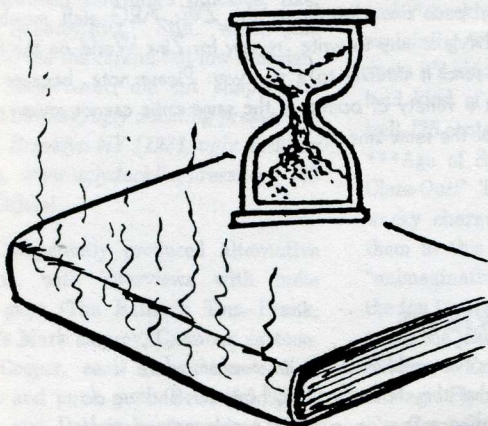
PROTECT YOUR COVER FROM
SCORCHING BY PLACING A
SLIP OF PAPER BETWEEN THE
BOOK AND THE IRON.



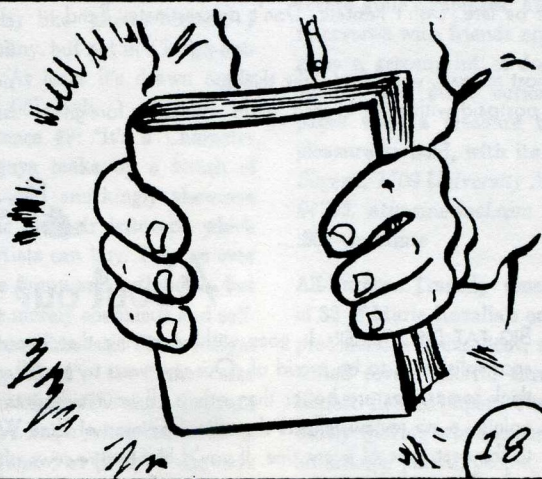
HEAT THE SPINE UNTILL THE
GLUE MELTS.



ALLOW THE BOOK TO COOL
AND THE GLUE TO RE-HARDEN.



**CONGRATULATIONS!!!!
YOUR BOOK IS NOW BOUND
AND READY TO TRIM.**



Daniel Nauenburg can be reached at 13741 Mercado Dr., Del Mar CA 92014 or by email at evildanny@hotmail.com. He encourages you to visit the Small Press Syndicate website at <http://smallpresssyndicate.ripod.com/homepage.htm>.

Ordering zines

- Don't send checks. *Send cash.* If you're short on cash, send American stamps, but *no checks.* Zines are not businesses — Stinky Litterbox doesn't have a bank account, and neither does Zine World. *Send cash,* wrapped in a couple of sheets of paper, so the green can't be seen through the envelope.
 - Sending coins sucks, but if you must send change, at least *tape* the coins to your note. In transit, loose coins rattle around and sometimes rip their way out of the envelope. Plus, they're a loud announcement to postal workers, the recipient's roommates, etc., "This person gets cash in the mail. Steal it!" If you're sending for something that costs \$1.50, just send two bucks, or send a dollar and a few stamps.
 - Put your address on your note, not just on your envelope, and please mention that you read about the zine in ZW: ARG — spreading the word helps us get more zines to review next time. Also, many zine publishers have more than one zine, so be sure to say what specific title you're ordering: "I read about *God Awful Poems #20* in *Zine World*. Two bucks enclosed. Please send a copy to me *at this address.*"
 - Some zines say they're free, but send a dollar you cheap bastard, or at least enclose a SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) or an IRC (International Reply Coupon, available at the post office).
 - Mail is sometimes returned if the name on the envelope doesn't match the name on the box rental contract. For best results, address your envelope exactly as listed *in italics* in the review.
 - We ask zine publishers to specify whether they give free copies to prisoners. If the review does not include "free to prisoners," assume they don't — although you can still ask.
 - Postal workers are delicate souls, so if you're sending for something called *Drink My Piss or Fuck Off & Die*, you should leave such shocking words off your envelope.
 - International borders are artificial lines, drawn by "leaders" to keep people apart. *Disregard them!* To send for zines from other countries, see the international postal rate chart on the back cover to find out how much postage is needed. It's generally OK to send American cash, but we've received reports that cash mailed to Argentine, Colombian, Mexican, Russian, Serbian, Ukrainian, or Yugoslavian addresses is often "intercepted" en route. IRCs might be a safer alternative.
 - If you've paid for a zine and it doesn't promptly arrive in your mailbox, please be patient. Most zine publishers, between work, family, and other real life commitments, don't have as much time to spend on their zines as they might like. But if you don't hear back within a couple of months, send the zinester a polite follow-up note, and if there's no reply a couple of months after that, let us know. We won't get your money back, but we will list the names of deadbeat publishers. *If there's a problem, we want to know.*
 - Don't wait. Don't be late. Don't hesitate. Don't procrastinate. Send for some zines today!
- IN BRACKETS after most reviews, you'll find three things:
- First is the PRICE, postpaid within the United States. Prices for foreign

delivery are shown, when known, after the American price. "\$?" means no price was listed.

- "Age stmt" is short for "age statement," and it means you'll have to enclose a signed note saying something like, "I'm requesting this material for my own entertainment, and I'm over 21 years of age."

- "Trade" means, if you send 'em your zine, and they like it, you might receive a zine in exchange. There are no guarantees. If the recipient does not like your zine, you might get nothing.

- "The Usual" means you might wrangle a copy of a zine just by sending a chatty letter or something handmade and/or wonderful (like your own zine!).

- Then comes the number of PAGES, and approximate PAGE SIZE:

XS = extra-small (mini, 4x5½ or so)

S = small (digest-size, 5½x8½, or half-legal)

M = medium (full-size, 8½x11)

L = large (tabloids, or anything else noticeably bigger than 8½x11)

XL = extra-large (broadsheets, big posters, full-size newspapers)

HB = a hardback book

PB = a paperback book

- We also list the TIME spent reading. Half an hour would be ":30," an hour would be "1:00," etc. We don't promise we've read every word of every zine, but we certainly spend longer with a good zine than a lousy one, so consider the clock a further clue about quality. *Caveat emptor, baby!*

Send Us Your Zine!

OUR GOAL is to review as many zines as possible. We'll review just about anything self-published that comes our way. However, because our focus is on the underground press, we're less likely to review something mainstream enough to purchase a UPC, apply for a grant, accept credit card orders, have nationwide store distribution, or run ads from giant corporations.

WE WON'T REVIEW zines if we can't find an ordering address or contact info. Not all of our readers have Internet access, so please be sure to include a mailing address for orders — not just an email address. If you want to protect your privacy, get a PO or private mailbox.

ZINES ARE RANDOMLY ASSIGNED to critics. You are welcome to pick your own critic by specifying on a note attached to your zine or by sending your zine directly to the ZW: ARG staff member of your choice. Make sure to write "review for Zine World on the front cover" if you send it directly to a reviewer. Please note, because we like to present a variety of opinions, the same critic cannot review consecutive issues of the same zine.



About our reviews

BIG FAT DISCLAIMER: It goes without saying that *every zine ever published by anyone anywhere* is an accomplishment to be proud of. Our reviewers try to tell you what they honestly think, however, and we *do* think some zines are better than others. If your zine gets less than a rave review, that's only one person's opinion — no review reflects the official opinion of Zine World, and we always try to assign a different critic to the next issue of every zine. If you'd like two reviews of your zine, simply send two copies.

reviews

zines

the2ndhand #5: This newsletter contains four short stories and a few filler pieces. I could only read three of the stories; one was written in German. Budding writers need all the exposure they can get, so this zine does a good thing. However, I felt that these stories should have gone through at least one more draft before being printed. There is potential, but the writing is too loose and doesn't make sense in some spots. Since it's free though, I suggest getting it as you may discover a gem in one. 2641½ N. Spaulding #1-S Chicago IL 60647 [Free 4M :20] -Nicole

5 Fingers Folding #1: This dyke decided she wanted to make a punk/riotgrrrrl/kiss-my-ass zine, even though she's a suburban married femme. She pulls it off. There's no posturing, but lots of 'tude. Shannon gives poetry and short essays on sexual abuse, cutting, and other experiences, interspersed with reprints of well-known dyke comix and lyrics. If your tongue is looking for a little lesbian flavor, here's one tasty place to find it. Xerox Revolutionaries, PO Box 3411, Tallahassee FL 32315-3411, moonchild@aol.com [\$? 24S :15] -Jerianne

6x6 #4: "Hog-tied in the parking lot like firemen." This volume is poetry, lots of it, and it never lets you forget that you're reading poetry. Six poets in all, most of whom pour forth with images, or splice jump-cut lines of exhausting verbal gymnastics together. I found solace in Brandon Downing's quickies, like, "My/Name Is/Leroy/Ritz." Still, worth the freight just to see the careful but low-fi design, letterpress linen cover, die cut shape, and rubber band binding. ugly duckling presse, 112 Pioneer St., Brooklyn NY 11231, ugly.duckling@pobox.com, www.uglyducklingpresse.org [\$3 52S :48] -Michael

Ache #3: Competently produced alternative culture zine, with interviews with indie publishing guys (The Baffler's Tom Frank, Motorbooty's Mark Dancey, Cannuck cartoonist Dave Cooper, and Rumpshaker's Eric Weiss), pop and punk guys (Beautiful Skin's Nick Forte and Detroit hardcore icon John Brannon on his new band Easy Action), plus a feature on that guy Jack Chick. Also, ziney

cartoons from Carrie McNinch, among others. Not too many ads, and the fourteen record reviews look thoughtful. Over 50% interviews with guys. 167 Cortleigh Blvd., Toronto, ON M5N 1P6, Canada, achemag@yahoo.ca [\$3 52S 1:34] -Michael

Ad Hominim #11: This music zine is fun overall - a free CD, a cartoon, tons of photos - but beware, lots of interviews of bands I haven't heard of (and never does the interviewer ask a tough question, like "40 years of bands - isn't that enough?") Plus 12 pages of music reviews. [72M :45] -Tom

•••**Ad Hominim #12:** Punk zine minus the usual newsprint. Some of the interviews are amusing but unless you know the bands - Apocalypse Baby, Doosu, etc. - it's likely your eyes will glaze over after reading two or three in a row. Better are the collages, comics, and reprinted advertisements and news articles. Ad Hominim also comes with a plastic sleeve and a music compilation cd that's fairly rocking but nothing to write the editor of the local paper about. Nate Dogg, 175 Malcom Ave. SE, Minneapolis MN 55414, spaceboyus@yahoo.com or theiroldstuffwasbetter@yahoo.com, www.abrahamsasians.com [\$5, \$6 foreign, 4 for \$20, or trade, free to prisoners, checks payable to Nathan Hall 96M :35] -Wred

Age of Sinnocence #8: "Ghetto Booty." This is a mini comic whose main characters are the comic's artist and writer themselves. Basically the storyline consists of them getting drunk and "checkin' out the ladies," and then explaining why they like "ghetto booties." I guess it's kind of funny, but not in a laugh-out-loud kind of way. At least it's drawn really well. [25 cents 8XS :05] -Kyle

•••**Age of Sinnocence #9:** "It's a Character Close-Out!" Two guys make up a bunch of wacky characters, and smirkingly showcase them in this comic as their leftovers, which "unimaginative" artists can buy. They go over the top trying to be funny and outlandish, but to me the jokes are merely obnoxious and self-indulgent. Examples: "Sarcastic Black Midget & Magic Flying Cow-Head" - the former talks like Gary Coleman of the TV show Diffrent Strokes, and I don't know what the latter is supposed to be; "Dumb Fat Bitch" - she says

things like "I lost the keys to the Volvo in my vulva!"; and "Lil' Miss Singing Pussy" - get the picture? If any of the above sounds like it's worth four bits to you, then check this out - there's more where that came from. Matt Delight and Jeremy Wheeler, 1739 46th Ave., Apt. A, San Francisco CA 94122, ageofsinnocence@hotmail.com [50¢ 12XS :10] -Violet

Alarm #9: This zine covers the wide array of styles that make up the "underground" music scene - punk, hip hop, indie rock, etc. This issue has interviews with hip hop artist Mr. Lif, International Noise Conspiracy, Sunny Day Real Estate, Bratmobile, and the Weakerthans, along with the obligatory music and zine reviews. It's put together well, and the writing and interviews are definitely above average. [2:00] -Kyle •••**SECOND OPINION:** What do you get if you take your standard punk/hardcore/emo/indie zine format - columns, band interviews, reviews, political rants - and give it higher production values? Well, you get your standard punk/hardcore/emo/indie zine and no ink on your hands afterwards. Smash the state and pass the indie label ads. PO Box 200069, Boston MA 02120, alarmpress@mindspring.com, www.alarmpress.com [\$3, \$4.50 Canada, subs are \$18 US and \$27 Canada/Mexico, check or money order ok to Alarm Press 76M 1:00] -Wred

all this is mine #6: You might think \$4 is a bit much to pay for a zine this size. Not so when that zine is also a work of art. Between the reflections on racism and education of kids, the severe guilt complexes, and numerous (short) interviews with friends and zinesters, Sugene gives a screenprint of Joey Ramone, a cork square, and other curiosities. The colorful pages were a pleasure to consume (and a pleasure to hold, with its upholstered cover). Sugene, 1709 University Ave. #5, Berkeley CA 94703, atimzine@aol.com [\$4, no trades 48S :50] -Jerianne

All-Purpose Tragedy (one-shot): A chapbook of 33 of Marie Kazalia's one-page poems. The presentation is excellent, with a tasteful illustrated cover, colorful threaded binding, and confetti-flecked paper. The poetry can be genuinely moving when concrete imagery evokes situations, places, people, or actions. Unfort-

unately, vague lyricism, esoteric symbolism, clumsy misspellings, the temptation to/break bad prose/into lines/and call it/poetry, and the limitations of one-pagers overwhelm these few victories. A few funny poems about balls, turds, and butts. And, say, what's with the ISBN number? Curiously, there is an address for a publisher: *C. C. Marimbo, PO Box 933, Berkeley CA 94701-0933*, or *Marie, PO Box 422344, San Francisco CA 94142-2344, makazalia@aol.com* [\$? 41S :22] -Michael

allthatcreepeth #2: A cut-and-paste perzine focusing mostly on preparations by the editor and his girlfriend to move into an RV and roam around the country full-time. Kind of heavy on the filler, including a lot of collage-type backgrounds that take over the pages. Other topics in this issue include a friendship soured by religion, growing into an older punk, the editor's relationship with his mother, and a recent birthday celebration. Some of the more personal observations and revelations were interesting, but neither of us really connected with the writing. *Jeremy, 310 E. Lambricht #3, Tampa FL 33604, allthatcreepeth@hotmail.com* [\$1, stamps, or trade 18S+5XS :15] -Sean & Malinda

America? #7: Published in June 1999, this mini-zine contains an interesting but dated interview with John Porcellino (*King-Cat Comics*), focusing on his full-time effort running Spit and a Half Distribution (which he figures earned him less than \$1.40/hour). Otherwise, its short prose poems - on Florida,

"party scenes," library work, and privilege - seem posed and overly ironic. I like the physical package, though. *Travis Fristoe, PO Box 13077, Gainesville FL 32504-1077, sfn07994@afn.org* [\$? 32XS :13] -Chris

AMPB Report #43: This three page newsletter for the Association of Micro-Power Broadcasters contains favorite albums and recommended playlists, as well as a few resources for related free speech issues, but is skimpy on the how-tos and whys of micro-power broadcasting. Why? I don't know. Maybe you can email them and ask. *AMPB, PMB 22, 2018 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley CA 94704, ampb@california.org* [\$? 6M, :10] -eric

Anderson Valley Advertiser v49#21 (May 23, 2001): It feels silly reviewing a particular issue of this weekly publication. Here's what you need to know: This is the *best* weekly newspaper in the country and everyone who cares about journalism and politics should subscribe. The AVA is rooted in a historically isolated, rural community and does a lot of local reporting, but it's much more than that. In this issue the "New Economy," saving rivers and streams from clear-cutting and wineries, the Judi Bari bombing case, and "white skin privilege" are written about by different authors, but since they're in the AVA you know it's going to be from the perspective of working people and not just liberal cringing and hand-wringing. For new readers, I suggest starting with the "Off The Record" section to get the full impact of the paper. It helps to have a mean sense of humor. [12L :45] -Gordon

...**Anderson Valley Advertiser v49#29:** Another fine issue of a great local newspaper. If only one of the rags around where I currently live in Southeast Ohio had half the spunk of the AVA, I'd actually buy and read it. Of course, if you don't live in the area - somewhere in California - that the AVA serves, most of the material won't matter beans to you. Strange though that a model of a spunky independent American newspaper is so rare nowadays that we review it in *A Reader's Guide To The Underground Press*. *Bruce Anderson, 12451 Anderson Valley Way, Boonville CA 95415, ava@pacific.net* [\$2, \$38/year 12L :30] -Wred

Angry Thoreauan #28: "Cannibalization." The painting of sore-ridden naked people and diners enjoying a human head which serves as this issue's cover art is stomach-churning. The new installment of AT features a vast and impressive array of articles on the subject of cannibalism. Included are fiction, research articles, an interview with convicted flesh-eater and former mortician Nicolas Claux, plus more. Aside from the themed pieces, the

standard music and publication reviews are also included. A very solid magazine. *PO Box 3478, Los Angeles CA 90028, www.angrythoreauan.com* [\$5 US \$7airmail/\$6surface elsewhere, trades welcome 82M :1:35] -John

Anywhere But Here #4: The "road trip" issue - Tyrone's handwritten journal of a van trip from Austin to Minneapolis to the Pacific northwest is a compelling, poignant read. Tyrone's introspection ranges from peace and acceptance to regret and longing, usually revolving around sex and love and partners in both. Friends, family, photos, pin-ups, college dorms and dumpster diving are sometimes joined by puppies, kittens and a coyote puppet. Sounds like a wonderful - if painful - trip for all involved. *Tyrone C., PMB 143, 603 W. 13th St. #1A, Austin TX 78701-1795 abh_zine@hotmail.com* [\$1+stamp, or trade, free to prisoners 44S :75 and I'll read it again] -Jacque

Area I #1: Area I is a good representation of Berkeley culture: artsy with some quality, some pretension. Smart, but an over-emphasis on design. The zine is mostly short fiction (lots of character studies) with some art. Melissa Klein does a decent job snapshotting a multitude of voices in "My Name." The alternating black and white (slick) pages, with the same gray text, began to hurt my eyes. If only it were more reader-friendly, and the price were lower... I'd say maybe. *PO Box 644, Berkeley CA 94701-0644, areaizine@yahoo.com, www.geocities.com/areaizine* [\$5 52S :30] -Jerianne

Arte Postale! #85: I'll admit, I've been inexcusably lazy in hunting down an adequate definition for the term "mail art," so imagine my surprise in discovering: Mail art is nothing less than *alternate reality*! In a centerpiece essay, Vittore explains that mail artists are actually eccentric monarchs who create postage stamps, bank notes, and other sovereign documents for their imaginary lands and then distribute these artworks through the mail. Wotta cool concept! Brimming with fantasy, dada, homemade stamps, and big, big plans, this impressive zine is revolution-minded and eagerly recommended. *Vittore Baroni, via C. Battisti 339, 55049 Viareggio, Italy, baroniv@ats.it* [\$5 surface, add \$2 for air mail delivery, send payments as cash in registered envelope or International Postal Money Order, or trade 24S :50] -Susan

Astounding Bad Cat Stories #00: This is a comic about a cat-like superhero of sorts and his two friends and their run-in with a voluptuous alien space babe who they help fight against the evil Major Stench. It's really well done - in fact, almost too well done for my tastes. If the guy who put this out isn't already



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a professional comic artist I would assume that he's aspiring to be due to the presentation of this. It even comes in one of those little plastic baggies that store-bought comics come in. *Rik Verlin Livingston, Zono Art Productions, 538 Broderick St, San Francisco CA 94117* [\$3.99 24M :30] -Kyle

Atheist Coalition v11#6: Newsletter for the Atheist Coalition, with smallish articles on the coming culture clash between US religionists and European atheists or agnostics, and the necessity of presenting a dignified appearance in order to win over the minds of skeptical religionists. Not a whole lot of meat here for the battle against god(s), but still an interesting introduction to atheist political thought. *PO Box 4786, San Diego CA 92164-4786* [\$? 4M :05] -eric

Attempted Not Known #6: Collection of comics, some strips, and a few single-panel things. I don't much like the artwork (although it's certainly competent) and the punchlines are weak, but I get the feeling I should see more of Peter's work before passing judgment (the intro says this issue is "a little different," so I don't know how representative this sampling is). My opinion? I abstain. [:10] -Karlos
•••**SECOND OPINION:** These collected comics from Peter Conrad treated me to tense, dramatic narratives; pro-quality artwork; mature, 3-D characters; superb super-hero parody; and the illustrated dreams of famous people. But somehow this newsprint comic book still seemed skimpy. Perhaps it's because the stories just get started before moving on to other short-lived features. Is there a full-length comic book by this guy? ISSN. *Peter S. Conrad, PO Box 64522, Sunnyvale CA 94088, webmaster@peterconrad.com, www.peterconrad.com* [\$1 16M :20] -Susan

The Axt Report vXVM #12,746: Most of this brain-damaged zine focuses on the triumphs of a stuffed monkey toy named "Ernie Louise" and a mad scientist-type named Dr. Axt. According to the red and black handwritten text, Ernie Louise shed her humble South American origins with help from the good doctor's "Personality Replacement Kit," and now she's a high-profile fashion model and Oscar-winning actress. Skeptical? Full color photos prove these astonishing claims aren't actually the fanciful product of some warped, desperate mind. [10M :10] -Susan

•••**The Axt Report vXVMIII#12,749:** An unattractive "humor" newsletter with fake news, fake classifieds, and a pervasive primate obsession. Obtuse in the extreme. Inexplicable. And pointless. *Susan Whipple, PO Box 1448, Jacksonville OR 97530* [\$19.46 per year, foreign add \$10 8L :04] -Emerson

The AZML Knews Review #43: "Spring Clean." Self-described as "an irregular knewsletter of personal observations, poems, stories, recipes, and spoofs." I didn't really understand some of the articles in this, but I get the feeling that if I were a regular reader of this newsletter, or a friend of its editor, it might make a bit more sense. This issue has a review of the book *The Joy of Conversation*, ideas for creating community, a story about getting made fun of at a breakfast bar, and a few other things. *David L. White, Small Potatoes Press, PO Box 210977, Milwaukee WI 53221, knews@azml.com, www.azml.com/knews* [\$1, or stamps, or trade, plus SASE 4M :15] -Kyle

Bad Bodacious Milwaukee Biker Confidential #1: Lawsuits were filed against nine members of the Milwaukee chapter of the Outlaw Motorcycle Association, invoking the R.I.C.O. Act (the racketeering act usually used in conjunction with Mafia investigations), and David Van Hyle is outraged! In 80 often-repetitive pages of reprints from newspapers, sprinkled with biker pictures and protest writings, he chronicles the indictments and trials. Basically accused of an organized program of violence, particularly against rival, Hells Angels-associated motorcycle clubs, the witnesses include confessed murderers and apparently dirty cops. A travesty, I tell you, a travesty! Van Hyle raises a few thought-provoking points about police responsibility for crime prevention when phone taps reveal criminal plans, and certainly the pool of witnesses and defendants is as about polluted as they come, but basically this compilation reinforces the image of bikers as violent drunks and criminals, who by the way beat their women. If you'd like to read 79½ more pages of the same, send for it. *David Van Hyle, 6726 W. Harrison Ave., Milwaukee WI 53219, aneeneus@yahoo.com* [\$3, or trade 80M :60] -Jacque

Basement Journals #3: See A Day in June #5.

Batteries Not Included vVIII#5: Sex and Porn zine (no pictures). There's an article on Yahoo's short-lived foray into adult products, a short reminiscence by a former prostitute, an interview with a porn star, porn reviews, and various other tidbits. Hey, "tidbits" isn't some sort of euphemism, is it? I'm trying to watch out for that sort of thing. You know, that's the problem with all this porn stuff, you keep finding more and more everyday words that are being used for smutty purposes. Like "rim." Or "come." Or "log jam." That's why those studies show that men think about sex every seven seconds; they're surrounded by double entendres. Anyway, this zine is fine. [12M :30] -Karlos

•••**Batteries Not Included vVIII#8:** The brightest light in what Sobaka editor Cali Ruchala calls "the raincoat press" burns on. Witty as ever. Because pornography is one of the funniest aspects of human sexuality, and only death is funnier than sex. Porno-related essays, interviews and reviews, all of which maintain an appropriate level of self-mockery. *Richard Freeman, 513 N. Central Ave., Fairborn OH 45324, bni@aol.com* [\$3, \$4 abroad 12M :22] -Emerson

A Beautiful Final Tribute #1: "Trail of the Shadows." The author recounts the events surrounding a terrible automobile accident she had with three of her friends when all the possibilities for their life were ahead of them. Told in a series of cathartic letters to the three fated companions and a fourth person who was spared involvement by a quirk of fate, the author does manage to take the reader "along for the ride," so to speak. The story was disturbing, but not enough so that I didn't want to finish reading it. *Bee Lavender, PO Box 12525, Portland OR 97212* [\$2, or trade 20S :11] -Suzanne

Betty Paginated #23: This issue comes with a freebie. Mine was a CD, yours will be different. That's always a nice touch, as everyone loves free surprises. There is a lot of nudity in this zine, be warned. It also contains a lot of wrestling articles. The other articles range from smutty to witty, cover subjects as varied as obituaries to reviews. Everything is written with an attitude that amuses me. Sort of reminds me of Larry Flynt. *Dann Lennard, PO Box A1412, Sydney South, NSW 1235, Australia, danhelen@idx.xom.au* [\$5 US, \$6 elsewhere (age stmt) 46M 1:00] -Nicole

Big Hammer #4: The post-Ginsberg gang of NYC beats who shuffle down the Bowery and St. Marks Place still hold aloft the tattered banner of the lower east side, baby, where drugs and alcohol and poetry that means something, man, are kept alive in almost-establishment publications like *Long Shot* and self-published zines like *Big Hammer*. No question - much of this is good, felt writing, no matter how revisited the gutters and the needles and other things in them. Among it is the most arresting writing I've come across in years, when the subject matter goes into the much darker places of the things parents do to children and people do to each other (Keith Dodson in particular here). Maybe the comfort the gang has in knowing each other so well - some of the poems refer to others of the poets; the book reviews are by compatriots of the authors - has something to do with the cohesiveness of this issue. Certainly the layout, while rudimentary, collects like near

like, which adds to the sense of narrative flow. Some (generally indulgent) artwork is sprinkled throughout. Fans of Matt Borkowski, Lunar, Harvey Pekar, Andy Clausen, and Lamont Steptoe (for example) either already have this or know about it, I'd guess. If you're just discovering William Carlos Williams, or are new to the Beat scene, this is a good primer for the workaday poets keeping that worldview alive. [:90] -Jacque •••**SECOND OPINION:** I was blown away by the raw intensity and honest, true-to-life poetry found in *Big Hammer*! It was poetry that (for the first time ever) spoke to me with a clear voice and an overwhelming power causing me to realize poetry can have a relevant part in our culture outside of the Yuppie coffee houses and condos in Vail, Col. *Big Hammer* features dozens of contributors, all of them quite good and quite stark in their presentation of the darker side of the American dream, which include (among many topics) the carnage of war, the terror of child abuse, and the Gods of NAFTA. In spite of the steep price, I highly recommend this poetry zine - especially to those (like me) who hate poetry zines. *Dave Roskos, Iniquity Press, PO Box 54, Manasquan NJ 08736* [\$6 US, \$7 Canada/Mexico, \$9 Overseas, select trades 72M 1:30] -Stefano

Black Sheets #17: "kinky - queer - intelligent - irreverent." This magazine of erotic stories and kinky black and white photos is all above average, but with a mix of gay and straight, I think it'll turn off everyone but bisexuals. This issue's theme is sex in public, with stories about sex in a confessional, a bathroom, a shoestore, etc., plus book and video reviews. Note it contains an article by former editor of *ARG*, Doug Holland. *Black Books, PO Box 31155, San Francisco CA 94131, BlackSheets@blackbooks.com, www.blackbooks.com* [\$6 US, \$8 Canada/Mexico, \$10 elsewhere, 4 issue subs \$20 by US mail, \$28 for Canada/Mexico, \$36 elsewhere, checks payable to Black Sheets (age stmt) 52L :20] -Tom

Black Velvet #28: UK quarterly rock zine with a glossy cover and easy-to-read layout. Doesn't have the millions of ads you might expect. This is definitely *not* *Maximumrocknroll*. BV is more likely to discuss Bon Jovi than punk scene politics. The meatiest (heh heh) part is the interview with the band Pitchshifter; it discusses Foot and Mouth disease, animal rights, and sour grapes about rich and famous pop singers who don't write their own songs. Also, lots of band interviews (My Ruin, Dum Dums, Antiprudent, Total Rock Radio, etc.) and tons of reviews. *Shari Black Velvet, 336 Birchfield Road, Webheath, Redditch, Worcs B97 4NG England, shari@blackvelvetmagazine.com, www.blackvelvetmagazine.com* [£1.80

+ SAE UK, \$5 US, \$6 Canada/Mexico, \$5 world, or trade 36M :15 (but a lot longer if the bands had interested me at all)] -Gordon

The Blind Man's Rainbow v6 #3: This zine has been, and continues to be the best place for zine poets to get their work seen (if they query first, that is). This issue contains the work of 57 poets and illustrators. It is also the most consistently published poetry zine I know. And the poetry? A mixed bag. My biggest concern is that too much of it is alike in being first person, free verse that's often angst-filled. I'd like to see more variety of poetry styles and subject matter. My favorite line is from "Spring Walk" by Joan E. Cashin: "While a branch of wisteria reposes in that garden like a line of haiku." *Melody Sherosky, PO Box 1557, Erie PA 16507-0557, bmrainbow@excite.com, www.angelfire.com/on2/blindmansrainbow* [\$3 US, \$4 other, trade 30M :45] -Tom

Bog-Gob #18: Although the cover cries "adults only," there is nothing offensive in the zine at all, no nudity, no more cursing than the normal zine. It is fantastic. I loved "Diarrhea of a Madman," tidbits of insight on various subjects, from what is overrated to the breakdown of the types of people who chat online. The "On the Rag Report" covers why the government shouldn't sanction things like the Confederate flag. This whole issue is full of interesting articles, some funny, some informative. *PO Box 4425, Chattanooga TN 37405, boggob@aol.com, http://members.aol.com/boggob* [\$2 US, \$4 everywhere else, or trade (age stmt) 30M :30] -Nicole

Book Happy #6: This is *swank*. The writers seek out the strangest books they can find and write about them. In this issue, the books they report on cover such topics as the masked "is he Elvis?" singer Orion, an Italian Flat Earth booster, bad poetry, and - and this is particularly goofy - a gynecology book written for hillbillies: "Improvin' with age - like the best whiskey or moonshine" is one chapter title. *Book Happy* is not only a great read itself, it's inspiring - it'll have you rushing down to your town's mustiest bookstore in search of the bizarre. *Donna Kossy, PO Box 86663, Portland OR 97286, www.book-happy.com* [\$5 cash, check or money order to Donna Kossy 36M 2:00] -Karlös

Broken Glass Barbed Wire Street Fight #5: "Death Issue." The highlight of this zine was an interview with "Mr. Plow," who is in the dead body removal business, in addition to moonlighting as a solo acoustic punk act. However, set in the context of the rest of the zine, the interview kind of left us with a sleazy feeling. Maybe it was the repeated references to necrophilia that the editor kept interjecting.

Or perhaps, to put it all in perspective, it was that fictional story (written in the first person) called "The Day I Grew a Cunt," about a male character who wakes up with "a big sweaty, oozing pussy" and asks a friend to fuck him and coworkers to gang rape him at a bar. The rest of the zine was pretty forgettable. [:15] -Sean & Malinda •••**SECOND OPINION:** This was rather difficult to get into. The rant titled, "Reasons Why My Roommates Must Die," the interviews with people who work for funeral services, the guide to Clint Eastwood westerns - it all failed to grab this reader. There's a short story called "The Day I Grew A Cunt" that is an adaptation of a really stupid joke I heard once in 5th grade. The writing isn't terrible, and the zine is not humorless, but it just isn't this reader's speed. *Rusty Haight, c/o Sudden Death Records, Moscrop PO Box 43001, Burnaby BC V5G 3H0, Canada, rusty_mf_666@yahoo.com or Chris Walter, c/o Gofuckyourself Press, 2320 Woodland Dr. Suite 34, Vancouver BC V5N 3P2, Canada, hook90@hotmail.com* [\$1 28S :35] -John

Brooklyn #33: Fred lives in Brooklyn and is damn proud of that fact. He uses his zine as an outlet to share with the world all of the interesting things he's found there. This issue focuses on trolleys, Floyd Bennett Field, fruit stands, Brooklyn lingo, and more. If I lived in Brooklyn I think I would love this zine, but being that I live in Virginia, a lot of this was just sort of irrelevant to me. *Fred Argoff, 1800 Ocean Pkwy. #B-12, Brooklyn NY 11223-3037* [\$2.50 24S :15] -Kyle

Browsing Room: Tara says in her introduction that this might be the only issue of *Browsing Room*. I hope not. I thoroughly enjoyed this zine, and I don't think it was just because I could relate to it so entirely (a gal in her late 20s, who has floundered around while trying to determine what to do with her future, who has a deep abiding love and fascination with libraries...). Excellent writing tells about Tara's experiences at the library where she worked, unrequited love at the library, how she learned she is an "originator," and the healing force of the library. She also presents library fashion, a list of notable libraries around the world, people's favorite things about libraries, a library field trip, lists of books she discovered or rediscovered while working at the library... Are you catching the theme here? Throughout are many gorgeous color photos of Dekalb Public. No need for a library card, just some cash and an envelope. *Tara Moyle, 2621 Stuart Ave #34, Richmond VA 23220, taramoyle@hotmail.com* [\$2 US, \$2.50 world 72XS 1:20] -Jerianne

Burning Jelly #2: Jason dropped out of college

so that he could travel around for a while and focus his energy on his writing. This issue of his zine discusses his decision to do this along with featuring some of his short stories. Kevin is a pretty good fiction writer if you ask me, but what was even cooler was reading about his personal life and then being able to pick out pieces from his stories that were obviously drawn from his real-life experiences. *N89 W17109 Highland Ct, Menomonee Falls WI 53051, kev517@netzero.net* [\$2 44S 1:00] – Kyle

Burnt #4: It's difficult to read many pages in this zine because the background is too busy or has words that merge into the actual articles. The only article that really stood out in this issue was taken off a website and written by a professional. The rest of the articles are basically of the "I hate my job, this is my life" style. Nothing in this issue was written by the editor of the zine, which seems odd. Not outstanding, not terrible, just so so. *Franco, 400 Park Rd, Parsippany NJ 07054-1737, burntzine@yahoo.com, burntzine.i85.net* [\$1, or 3 stamps, or trade 18M :20] –Nicole

Bus Stop International #?: Ho-hum collection of material related to busses. Confusing interviews with straphangers, which often include only the responses; dry interviews with

architects and designers; bus stop poetry; bus stop bands (Bus Stop, Bus Stop Boys); and a breezy story of a bus stop romance. The competent design work and lackluster filler makes this seem like a college design project. *Roger Whiting, 17604 North 39th Avenue, Glendale AZ 85308, rbwmail@yahoo.com* [\$2.50 US, \$3 elsewhere, or trade 28M :18] – Michael

Cain #4: This has one of the best things I've ever read in a zine: a 27-page article on Columbus House, a homeless shelter – Michelle interviews both the people staying there and the people running the place. In-depth in a way you rarely see out of a zine. There's also a good piece on being Asian-American in China. Best of all, it's illustrated with some nice photographs taken by Michelle herself, rather than settling for the (as Michelle says) "shitty clipart images" that so many zines use. It's nice to see a zine by someone who actually, you know, cares about what they're doing. Only a buck – well worth it. *Michelle, PO Box 200077, New Haven CT 06520, cainzine@yahoo.com, http://cainzine.tripod.com* [\$1 US / Canada / Mexico, or trade, free to prisoners 52S 2:00] –Karlos

A Call to Humanity: A pamphlet discussing class issues within capitalism, and the need for

people to reject this system in favor of humanism. Most of the text outlines the suffering and injustice inherent in capitalist societies, particularly focusing on specific examples within American society. The author spends no time explaining how humanism would replace capitalism in a practical sense. We read nothing in here that was new to us. Obviously, there are no easy solutions to these problems, but to keep restating them without at least providing some concrete suggestions on how to help solve them in day-to-day life seems pointless to us. *C. Anthony Taylor, c/o South Chicago ABC Zine Distro, PO Box 72, Homewood IL 60430, members.xoom.com/thoughtbombs/*[\$? 8S :05] –Sean & Malinda

Calling Monster Island #3: Evidently the product of two zinesters bursting with enthusiasm for creature features, this monster and horror movie zine offers surprisingly fleeting glimpses of what they love and why they love it. Gosh, they seem to know their stuff well enough for a tight feature on Ray Harryhausen or Hammer horror pictures; we instead learn that the sound of Godzilla's "radioactive fire breath is sooo cool!" Fanzines are often faulted for nerdy nitpicking of obscure trivia, but this offering mostly skims the surface. Also inside, Skyman, Fusion

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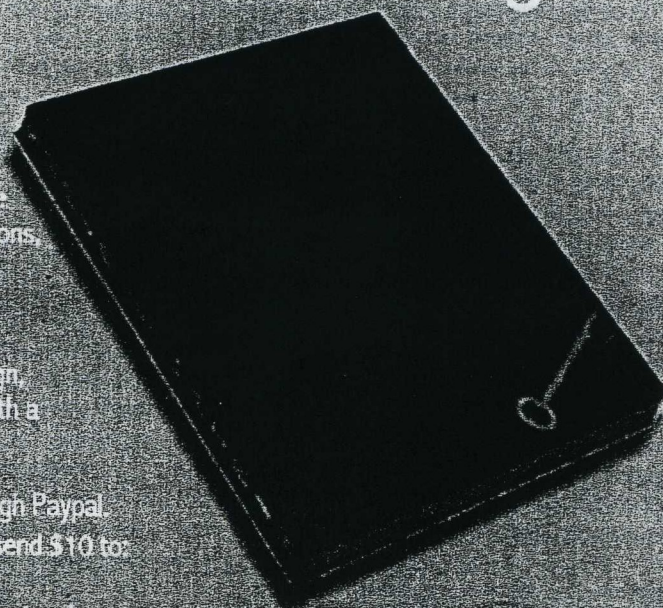
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Android: Rough, anime-style mini-comic featuring the genesis of Skyman, built by Dr. Hydra in his underground laboratory. *Mark Jiro Okui, PO Box 15128, Long Beach CA 90815, mokui@earthlink.net* [\$4 32S :25] – Michael

Cat Butt #5: Shoshannah manages to fit her favorite genre of music, metal, into her story of travel and introspection. Along with her journey, she includes lots of musings on heavy metal, with show reviews and music reviews. Interspersed throughout Cat Butt are cartoon drawings of the author that parallel the light-hearted feel of the zine. Shoshannah is a capable writer to the point where I'd almost say this could be enjoyed by even someone who doesn't share her metal obsession. But Cat Butt is a bit too saturated with the topic for that. *Shoshannah, PO Box 470263, San Francisco CA 94147, www.lanset.com/catbutt* [\$2+stamp 28S :35] –John

Chaos Never Died #3: Title aside, this rough, squalid, lite-depressive poetry zine bears no discernable Hakim Bey influence. This guy's Sunday afternoon ennui is so unique and overwhelming that he apparently can't be bothered to properly trim or staple his little pub. I don't doubt CND's good intentions, and I hope the sharing cheers him up, but that doesn't keep my fingertips from falling asleep. *David Hedges, 6019 N. Navarre, Chicago IL 60631, mrhedges666@yahoo.com* [1 stamp, accepts submissions 8XS :02] –Emerson

Chaque Jour #17 (Summer 2001): Formerly titled *Cryptic Slaughter*. With tiny (but legible) print and distinctive shape (3.75x8.5), this zine relates one punk rocker's experiences organizing a show in Spokane. Giovanni's flyers were "gay," someone said; another billed the vegan hotdogs as "all-meat" so they'd be more apt to sell; the event wasn't well attended ("the crowd thinned out to about ten"). Giovanni has a sense of the absurd so this reads almost like parody – memorably so. Includes four foot-noted zine reviews. *Giovanni, PO Box 1781, Spokane WA 99210* [\$1 27S :20] –Chris

Chasing Snakes In Charm City: A story chapbook about meeting up with some friends in Baltimore on St. Patrick's Day and getting d-runk and t-rashed. Some of the references aren't explained so it's a bit like overhearing a conversation between people you don't know, but it's an entertaining tale, and the collage centerfold illustrating the storyline is eavesdrop-worthy as well. Ooh, nice production job, too; now pass the green beer and turn on the John Waters movie. *William P. Tandy, PO Box 963, Havre de Grace MD 21078, www.leekinginc.com* [\$2 US, \$3 Canada

/Mexico, \$4 world, or trade 32S :20] –Wred

Chechel Angel #3: Reactionary Christian teen-princess personal zine: "I'm Rachel and I'm a Christian. I'm seventeen years old and my purpose in life is to be sold out to God." Lots of anti-abortion rhetoric in here. Lots of pictures of Rachel and her young American friends looking like a Tommy Hilfiger ad, posed out in front of their brand-new cars. This zine is pro-censorship, pro-"Life," pro-Drug War, etc. [:20] –Violet •••**SECOND OPINION:** Perzine from an engaged, pro-life, anti-porn, feminist, Christian punk rock girl who used to be a Satanist. In addition to defying conventional wisdom and winning the award at her high school for most likely to be a right-wing blonde television commentator, Rachel writes pretty well (something you can't say about Ann Coulter). Her friends help out, too, with articles about being a teen and high school. Strangely enough, despite the label pedigree, probably nothing you haven't seen before, but well put together. [32S :25] –Wred

•••**Chechel Angel #4:** A neat cover of an angel with fabric wings, and a nifty envelope in the middle with a surprise are just some of the plusses in this zine. The poor girl's handbook gives tips on cheap fashion and entertainment; the recipe page features easy and interesting food to make. There are several interviews with bands, of average quality. It's the unique goodies that make this zine worth getting. *Rachel Abernethy, PO Box 1641, Apex NC 27502-3641, chechelangel@hotmail.com* [\$1 US, \$1.50 Canada/Mexico, \$2.50 elsewhere, or trade 36S :45] –Nicole

The Cheese Stands Alone #1: This kid's zine is mostly a collection of stories and snippets from his daily life: a road trip to see a show, a confrontation with a black widow spider, going to a show where he doesn't know anyone, stories from where he works. It's fairly interesting, but at times tends to drag a bit, such as the page after page of work journal entries that describe in way too much detail his boring days on the job. *Franco, 400 Park Rd, Parsippany NJ 07054-1737, OrtegaNJ@worldshare.net* [\$1 + 1 stamp 36S 1:00] –Kyle

Chickenhed Zine and Roll #2: This punk personal zine features a trip diary, tales of drunken antics and adventures, stories dealing with moving around a lot, as well as a sprinkling of zine, record, and show reviews. Josher's personality carries the zine, strengthening the readability of many of the stories. The writing has a mostly positive tone and is pleasantly free of typical nihilistic punk rants. Order it...and roll. *248 Defense Ave., Sandston VA 23150* [\$1 +/-or stamps, trades encouraged, add \$2 world 30S :35] –Sean & Malinda

Chinese Curls #1: For a first issue, this zine stands out. It's cute and charming. Ok, some of the content is mediocre, like the 'is it true or is it fiction?' tale of two girls' supernatural experience with an Ouija board, or the reprinted jokes. The first-person pieces, though – where having a taste for culture gets you, practicing meditation, etc. – read well (but are short) and the anime-style illustrations are adorable. Label it as one with potential. *Suzilee, PO Box 20370, San Jose CA 95160, leelee@makaiju.net, www.makaiju.net* [\$1, "email about trades" 38S :17] –Jerianne

The Circle v5#2: "Where Culture And Subculture Meet." Nicely produced but none too exciting litzine. Unless you live in east-central Pennsylvania in the USA – in which case this is a good resource for cool artistic stuff to do in the region – there isn't too much to recommend here. In fact, the poetry's particularly vile, and they should pay you \$4 to read it rather than the other way around. I did enjoy though the "Innocent Bystanders" short story about catching a ride with an insane trucker. More stuff like that, and I wouldn't think twice about another go-round in *The Circle*. Until then, best rename it *The Circle Jerk Where Bad Poets Meet And Wank One Another Off In Print*. *Penny Taubert, 173 Grandview Rd., Wernersville PA 19565, circlemag@aol.com* [\$4, no trades 52S :25] –Wred

Civilization Will Eat Itself (one-shot): This neat package presents a long and sprawling rant in impeccable handwriting with excellent spelling. The essay condemns not only capitalism, but also technology, science, and civilization – often in toto. Readability is not aided by Ran's tendency to race off on verbose tangents, and it can be frustrating to read rhetoric from a person who deliberately sets out to contradict himself; confuses Darwinism with Social Darwinism, theory with fact, science with technocracy; or lavishes hundreds of words where a few would suffice. Ran is evidently thinking long and hard, but makes me wish he wouldn't do it while he's writing. That said, this radical windjammer inks a real zinger of insight every few pages. *Ran Prieur, PO Box 45564, Seattle WA 98145, ranprieur@yahoo.com* [\$2, \$3 Canada/Mexico, \$5 world, selective trades 52S 1:46] –Michael

Clown Fantasies v2 #1: Dan seems to have some obsessions that don't exactly mesh well together, e.g. Sesame Street and 1970's porn movies. Movie and show reviews are intermixed with weird full-color collages and black and white porn image collages. The typed and handwritten articles are arranged in a sloppy cut-and-paste format. In several show reviews, Dan writes about stealing from merch tables at indie rock shows, which really

didn't impress us too much. This held no appeal for either of us. *Dan Trashcan*, 806 Lynnfield St., Lynn MA 01904, porkatron88@hotmail.com [\$1, \$2, "or best offer," or trades 56S :25] -Sean & Malinda

Clutch #1: "The Life and Times of Clutch McBastard." This is a collection of short comics the artist describes as "making little jokes about the boring and quirky details of my day-to-day existence." The black-and-white line drawings are loose, fresh, and well observed, but the punchline-driven, four-panel format often forced the humor right out of these funnies. The best panels dealt with Greig's creative leanings and his basic bodily functions, kind of one and the same when you think about it. *Greig*, PO Box 12409, Portland OR 97212, zinelibrarian@yahoo.com [\$1, or trade 40XS :05] -Suzanne

Cobweb Junction #8: Written by a smart and well-intentioned 17-year-old girl, this is thicker and with a more original layout than most teen feminist zines. Articles on feminism for boys and girls, the need to be alone at times, girl empowerment not girl power, the politics of food and vegetarianism, thoughts on going to college, and more. While the tone can be a little lecturing at times, this zine also shows promise and a sense of humor. Plus, great directions on how to make tea, which - as a fellow tea (not coffee) drinker - I would like to see reprinted in many zines. [:15] -Gordon *****SECOND OPINION:** A thick zine full of Aiko's thoughts on everything including femininity, body image, various teas and what they're good for, preparing for college, food, mix tapes, and feminism. A pretty well rounded perzine that's kept from becoming boring by the narrator's genuine writing style and insightful analysis. [41XS :45] -eric

*****Cobweb Junction #9:** "The Final Issue." Supremely unpretentious. Even when her subject matter is a tad obvious (body image, atheism, cats, what dicks the fellas can be sometimes), Aiko's ramblings are intelligent and sure-footed without being the least bit stylized. (She writes like she probably talks, in other words.) The sharp, two-sided rant on acting (not to mention the fact that she uses all sorts of different fonts and actually gets away with it) makes me miss this now-defunct zine I hardly knew. *Aiko Akers*, PO Box 95584, Seattle WA 98145-2584, aiko25@u.washington.edu or jitterbean@yahoo.com, www.cobwebjunction.tsx.org [\$1.50, \$1+2 stamps, \$2 Canada/Mexico, \$3 world or trade 38XS :24] -Emerson

Cold Fries #2: The first story in here was the highlight - a personal account of events related to the editor's father and his struggle

with alcohol. The rest of the zine lagged, though, and it was confusing trying to figure out who the various writers were. There are two collages - one about drinking and the other about school violence and its after-effects. Most of the articles are word-processed, although plagued by spelling errors. This might be better if in the future the editor focused on the more personal aspects of the zine. *Jonathan Fry*, 5094 Hidden View Dr., Hilliard OH 43026, flannel@Columbus.rr.com, www.coldfries.20m.com [\$1, or 3 stamps, or trade 22M :30] -Sean & Malinda

Complete Control #9: A self-described "compulsive documenter" showcases the slogans and flyers of his local anarchist collective. Blunt and predictable, yes, but Greg sounds like he'd be an interesting conversationalist if you caught him outside the scene. He claims to have, in his backlog, "lists of friends, lists of enemies, lists of kisses, of fights, all the important moments of adolescence." Any of those would be of more interest than this, at least to your reporter. *Greg Wells*, PO Box 5021, Richmond VA 23220, gregwells36@hotmail.com [\$2 52S :16] -Emerson

Connected: Rhode Island: Here are unedited transcripts of interviews with people in Providence, Rhode Island, in which each person is asked where in the state to go next and with what question to lead. Though it was a nice idea, the result is disappointing. Next time I hope Roger asks more incisive questions and then edits the conversations. "What's your favorite Barbie? Favorite Barbie? Yeah. I don't know, um. I guess it really didn't matter..." Includes CD. *Roger Whiting*, 17604 N. 39th Ave., Glendale AZ 85308, rbwmail@yahoo.com [\$3.50, \$4 outside US, or trade 24S :07] -Chris

The Connection #250 (3 May 2001): This longstanding APA (amateur press association) zine collates and distributes subscribers' writings - or newspaper clippings - on topics ranging from God to jury duty and legal prostitution. Like a pub argument or talk show radio in print, it's sometimes lucid and intelligent, other times half-baked, ill-informed, and downright wrongheaded. (One of the writers in this issue is unabashedly racist and anti-Semitic.) Engaging, awful, and useful for insight into people who think differently. *Erwin S. Strauss*, 10 Hill St., #22-L, Newark NJ 07102 [\$2, \$20/8 issues, no trades; 42M :55] -Chris

Crackwhore Quarterly #2(?): This zine has some really funny stuff in it. "Drugs I've Known" details the author's first speed experience and general teenage craziness. There is a four-part story about a crack house written in

a Charles Dicken's manner that I found amusing, and other bits to occupy your time. I also appreciate anyone who prints her/his hate mail. Get a copy. *Xoe*, PO Box 82 Lawrence KS 66044, xoe@msn.com [\$1 28S :20] -Nicole

Crazed Nation v6#1: "Tongue Twisted Dementia." A sort-of support group on paper, Crazed Nation focuses on mental illnesses (primarily depression in this issue). Contributors share their experiences, attitudes, opinions on social and political factors, and methods of recovery. Recommended for those looking for someone to relate to how mental illness has affected their lives. *David Kime*, 251 S. Olds Blvd. #84-E, Fairless Hills PA 19030-3426 [2 stamps 7M :15] -Jerianne

The Crime of Politics in America and the Politics of Crime by Talib Y. Rasheed: A photocopied pamphlet ranting on the psychosocial pathology inherent in American society. Half psychological dig into the mind of America's exploited underclass, half political jargon, all didactic and a little condescending. It does give some interesting elucidation into the gross economic and social inequality in America, but offers little in terms of a solution or any really new analysis. [2S :25] -eric

*****The Crime of Politics In America and The Politics Of Crime** by Talib Y. Rasheed: This pamphlet appears to be a continuation. It focuses on the economic causes of crime, the government's part in making people commit crimes by breaking laws that shouldn't be laws, and the crimes of the government itself. It gets a little confusing at times, but it is very informative and logical. It is very useful if you debate a lot; it will give you some ammo and good research material. *S. Chicago ABC Zine Distro*, PO Box 721, Homewood IL 60430 [2S :20] -Nicole

The Cryptographer #1: "...[A]ny time we use language as a medium for expressing our thoughts or sensations or needs, we're speaking in code," the introduction explains, and intriguingly, "... every text has a subtext." This beguiling zine bears all the self-conscious evidence of an occultist's attempt to control the secret messages inside words. I loved it! A few duds scattered around, but "Just Say NO! to Dangerous Narcotics!" "Lisbon Days," and Kathryn's sublime book reviews had me dreaming about drugs, Portugal, and books all afternoon. 4841 N. 16th St., Arlington VA 22205, the_cryptographer@hotmail.com [1 35S 1:10] -Susan

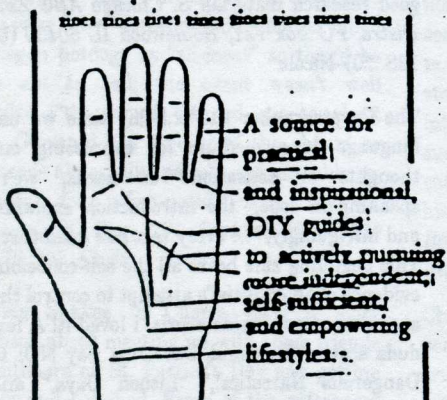
The Curse #2: Full color pictures of graffiti art on trains, walls, and wherever else the spray can paint was near and not much else. If your favorite art gallery is spread throughout the

city, this'll save you some driving to see the exhibit, I guess. *Anonymous*, PO Box 4702, Cerritos CA 90703, thecurse594@hotmail.com [\$3, cash, money order or check to The Curse, no trades, no subs, free to graffiti writers in prison 24S :05] -Wred

The Cutthroat Comics #9: Compelling comic with a storyline that makes no fucking sense (something about pirates and the artist getting a tattoo) and has awful art - the kind most of us drew in fourth grade or so. (I guess if this were done by fourth graders, the art would be seen as charming rather than awful.) Still there's something attractive about it as I appreciate the fact that the creator(s) couldn't write or draw very well, but fuck if that was going to stop 'em from making a comic. By issue #243, this'll be real fucking good, I bet. Until then, buyers beware. PO Box 345, Putney VT 05346 [\$1 "minimum for current issue" 24S :10] -Wred

Cyril Lost in Thought: Floating through a shifting, spacey landscape, a wide-eyed ghost-boy named Cyril gently bemoans his lonely search for Candyland. Jason Neuman's child-like artwork is dramatic and surprisingly endearing, but this particular Cyril adventure (there's a few) saddles its promising concept with a bad ending. By way of compensation, perhaps, my copy came with a sticker of "Bongy," a cartoon waterpipe flashing the thumbs-up sign. Neumie, 11861 Killimore Ave, Northridge CA 91326, Neumie77@aol.com [\$? 16S :10] -Susan

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The Czar #4: Charming zine with fun features on interpretive dance, sleazy pick-up attempts at record stores, the Brawny man, college admission blues, and why trees are great, with cartoony illustrations throughout. Also, cartoons from the exchange student, and the story of an estranged son reflecting on his father as a hot Virginia day turns to night. Sarah, Stevenson College #222, 101 McLaughlin Drive, Santa Cruz CA 95064, googajube@hotmail.com [\$2 North America, \$3 World 32S :24] -Michael

Damaged #7: Here we have a nice-looking humor zine, politically incorrect and jam-packed with the usual preoccupations of the Ba-Ba-Booey set - namely prostitution, pop-culture, porno, and putz-pulling. Highlight: a particularly pleasing piece penned by a porker who promotes himself as "the Deep Throat of the fat community" and who exposes, in breathy keystrokes, various secrets of summer lard concealment. Lowlight: Two writers square off and proceed to prick each other with a plethora of playfully pissed-off and patently platitudinous opinions on the Beatles and breaking up with girls. Louis Fowler, PO Box 54572, Oklahoma City OK 73154, orcho5k@aol.com, www.damagedmag.com [\$2, or trade 54M 1:20] -Dan

A Day In June #5/Basement Journals #3: Both sides of this split zine are pretty similar in that they're mostly made up of personal stories and thoughts from the two authors. A Day In June mostly talks about various reasons for being sad and drinking excessively. Basement Journals isn't quite as gloomy, focusing on wanting to move, feminism as it applies to her life, dealing with getting a bad review of her zine, hanging out in parks at night, and dwelling on the past. I'm glad these two came together as one zine because I think just reading A Day In June by itself may have been too depressing without Basement Journals being there to even things out a bit. 126 Parker Ave, Hawthorn NJ 07506, geekcorerecords@hotmail.com [\$? 16S :30] -Kyle

Deanotations #98: This is Dean's long-running newsletter of his quips, jokes, poems, etc. Sample poem: "I see a cookie, I grab it. Whee! / Cookies get sucked in by grab-it-y." Dean Blehert, 11919 Moss Point Lane, Reston VA 20194, www.blehert.com, dean@blehert.com [\$1, \$10 per year (12 issues?), \$5 per year gift or student 4M :10] -Violet

Derogatory Reference #97: With all the smug confidence of a landed gentleman strolling around his small estate, Arthur strides from milestone writer (C.M. Kornbluth) to milestone writer (Neal Stephenson), sowing self-satisfied

observations about modern society along the way. His notes from a literature conference report that Greer Watson read a scintillating paper entitled, "A Multivariate Approach to Analyzing the Fantastic," while John Crowley attended Sondra Swift's lecture about "golden ass imagery" and may have actually learned something. Thanks, but no thanks: This newsletter makes me want to stay as far away from contemporary, professional fiction as I can get. Arthur D. Hlavaty, 206 Valentine St., Yonkers NY 10704-1814, hlataty@panix.com [\$1 US, \$2 outside US, arranged trade, or letter of comment 6M :25] -Susan

Deviant #4: Minicomic about sexual deviancy. Let's see, we've got female ejaculation, anal sex, pubic hair puppets, unpublished letters to porn mags, sex with power tools, autofellatio, giving head to God, animal sex, facial psychology, and retarded sex. Pretty hilarious but "adults only" please. Robin Bougie, #320-440 E. 5th. Ave., Vancouver BC V5T-1N5, Canada, mindseyecomics@home.com [\$4 (age stmnt) 28S :20] -Wred

A Devil Has a Funny Laugh: Man looks for love in a post-apocalyptic world flooded by mind-controlling bio-transmissions where humans are merely cattle. It looks bleak until super-infant Billy Cole lends a hand. I was hooked on the comic, until the way-oversized boobs appeared on page 24. Hmph. Includes a mini, My Muse. Both stories, drawn in Ted's distinctive style, capture finding the courage within to be your own person, to fight restrictions - both externally and self-imposed. Ted Seko, PO Box 4266, Torrance CA 90570 [\$2 US, \$3 foreign 64S (plus 24XS) :20] -Jerianne

The Die #1: Simple, clean newsletter style for this collection of essays. One insightful article contrasts evolution theory with ideas of Social Darwinism, even exposing Darwin's use of metaphoric conflict in his view of nature. Also, musings from the newsroom on flack and objectivity, closing with a sad roster of recent Supreme Court decisions. Red Roach Press, PO Box 764, College Park MD 20740, jlsmith@boo.net, redroachpress.tripod.com [free subscription (but send a buck or two) 8M :34] -Michael

Discussion Bulletin #105 (Jan/Feb 2001): Bimonthly, socialist newsletter. Very dense reading that doesn't stray far from politics. Aside from the many letters, there are articles on working class Germans who fought the Nazis, Ralph Nader, unemployed recalcitrance and welfare restructuring in the UK. PO Box 1564, Grand Rapids MI 49501, fgirard@iserv.net [\$3, \$5 non-US surface mail, \$10

non-US air mail (extra for libraries) 32M :35] - Jay

Disorderly Conduct #3 (Late Spring/Early Summer 2001): "An insurrectionary green-anarchist quarterly." Jam-packed with original and reprinted articles, this zine offers many tips on how to get involved in activism and ways to improve your community. A lot of the type is tiny, though, making it tough to read much of this in one sitting. There are reports of anarchist activities, reprints on veganism and animal rights, and local Oregon-related news items. Theoretical articles result in some heavy reading, but this is still a versatile publication that does a good job of introducing green anarchism. [68S :45] -Sean & Malinda

Disorderly Conduct #4 (Fall 2001): What's to admire about this "insurrectionary green-anarchist quarterly" which features a time bomb and lighter on the cover, as well as a lengthy call to support Ted Kaczynski? Perhaps it's the words of warning about the risks of nanotechnology or the clipping from *The Wall Street Journal* about fast food workers who intentionally contaminate food ordered by police. Also included: a John Zerzan anti-civilization essay, reports on "earth liberation" and "anti-genetix" actions, and zine reviews. *Anarchist Action Coalition*, PO Box 11331, Eugene OR 97440 [\$3 cash, money order or check with "pay to" blank 84S :16] - Chris

Do Not EVER Represent Wack Shit (July 2001): This diary-style zine starts off with a letter from James' grandma: His mother died recently and he missed the funeral. Then his girlfriend of 8 years dumps him. Needless to say, James is depressed and lonely, and this zine reflects his state of mind. *James Squeaky*, Box 5964, Portland OR 97228 [\$2 24S :30] - Violet

Don't Let's #2: Winding, eerily emotionless listlike journal that spares no details but exudes zero in the way of style or insight. Perhaps you know these people and would take some enjoyment in sharing glimpses of their mundantiy, but I got absolutely nothing from this. *Jeffery B. Jackson*, 631 O'Farrell St. #814, San Francisco CA 94109, jjackson@postmark.net [\$1 US/Canada/Mexico, \$2 world, or trade 22S :07] -Emerson

Donkey Lady Road #Train Train: The writers for this one represent a variety of different views on what it means to be queer in areas that aren't always, or often, gay-positive. Includes a number of fascinating fundamentalist depictions of 'the gay lifestyle,' taken from various religious newsletters and gay-bashing websites, along with companion text that points out the absurd twists of logic

and misinformation that make homophobia possible. Also surprising facts (sources included!) on often-misquoted passages from well-known psychologists, the Kinsey Report, and even the Bible. *Opal*, PO Box 12611, San Antonio TX 78212 [\$2, or trade 40M :45] -eric

Doris #18: This perzine begins, "When mom died, every small thing turned huge." Cindy not only talks about dealing with her mother's death, but also a trip to Miami and romance there, some recipes, an article on abortion, etc. *Cindy Ovenrack*, PO Box 1734, Asheville NC 28802 [\$1.50 48XS :35] -Tom

Dos Mil: "A Story about the Muerto in the Mirror." "If you're curious as to how and why I created my own comic book, take a look at my mini-comic, *Dos Mil*," says the author on the back cover. So I did and found a short comic zine on making a comic book starring the author and his creation, El Muerte the Aztec Zombie. There is an overall creepy feel to it that was mesmerizing. I wanted to read more. Recommended. *Javier Hernandez*, Los Comex, PO Box 718, Whittier CA 90508-0718, Azteczombie@yahoo.com [\$? 16S :13] -Tom

Dream Whip #11: If you're looking for a bit of escapism to fit in your back pocket, I recommend this zine. Handwritten and illustrated, *Dream Whip* is memories and experiences, dreamy and wistful, exploration and introspection. It's breezing from Texas to San Francisco, winding through the states en route to New York, pausing there with held breath and a bike, to ride with the dead at 168th Street station and to choke up at the UN Building (or kick around dust at the World's Fair park) on thefuckenradtoursoftheworld. Bill's words are magical to me. It's hard to convey why; perhaps you'll see in this excerpt: "I'd never ridden the D train before, so at Columbus Circle, I took a look at the subway map on the wall. It was hard to read the map because the ink was smeared and rubbed away from so many fingers tracing the routes, tracing out trips the way fortune tellers trace the wrinkles on the palm of your hand; tracing out crazy routes that make no sense, then laughing out loud and hopping on the wrong train. ... I stood helpless, my subway trip stuck to the tips of index fingers scattered all over the city." *Bill*, PO Box 53832, Lubbock TX 79453 [\$3 156XS 2:20] -Jerianne

The Drome Drome, Wall Of Death: This one-shot, brought to you by the fellow behind *Funhouse* and *They Won't Stay Dead*, is basically a long book excerpt, but it's a good one. Veteran motorcyclist Speedy Babbs dispenses wisdom and anecdotes from the world of stunt cycling in a gruff, engrossing, weathered coach's voice. Brian asks readers to send their own Wall Of Death stories for a

send their own Wall Of Death stories for a possible expanded edition, and here's hoping someone antes up: I wanted more of this. *Brian Johnson*, 11 Werner Rd., Greenville, PA 16125-9434, glorystomper@webtv.net [\$3 US, \$4 elsewhere, or trade 16M :22] -Emerson

The Dung Beetle #2: Shane takes a 'kitchen sink' approach here, throwing in stuff he wrote, stuff his friends wrote, stuff he found, etc. With predictable results. There's some good writing and nice drawings here, but they're buried underneath too much stream-of-consciousness dross and too many junky graphics. I'd be interested in seeing more from Shane, but the guy has to get some focus if he wants to produce interesting zines. *Bottom "S" Press*, c/o Shane Hoffman, 2010 SW 7th Ave., Largo FL 33604 [\$? 104S :20] -Steve

Dunk and Piss #5: Mike, the author, likes to look for 666's on car license plates. He also likes to set colonies of ants on fire with his friends. In his cut-and-paste perzine, Mike writes about such things as being a preteen arsonist, bugs crawling up his nose, and various mishaps and adventures with his friends. There's a certain sense of humor pervading this zine that, most likely, will not appeal to anyone over 12. Good at being the dumb, punk publication, this isn't the worst thing I've ever read, but it is pretty forgettable. [:25] -John •••**SECOND OPINION**: In the intro, Alex says that people have been telling him that they use his zine for toilet paper. Well, we could see how that could happen... The stories in here are mostly too short and hard to follow, illustrated with panels taken from professional comic books. The longest story describes a trip to New York, but it's fairly boring. We give credit to any high school kids who are doing zines, though, no matter how bad they are. At least Alex has found a way to express himself, and we think that with a little more work, his zine could be a lot better. *Alex*, 11 Alger Dr., Rochester NY 14624, alex Yoshi@hotmail.com [2 stamps, or trade, free to prisoners 58XS :15] -Sean & Malinda

Dust Dances In Sunlight: Joyous little book filled with daydreamy thoughts of love and Bjork and birdies and a few less fanciful ponderings. Average yet endearingly handdrawn. Sweet and personal. *Geraldine Jean*, 87 Thong Soon Green, Singapore 787393, babybluedots@hotmail.com [\$1, or trade (please include a stamp) 48XS :20] -Jay

Dwelling Portably (April 2001): This long-standing zine features tips on itinerant life, whether on foot or in an RV. A wealth of hobo knowledge here, including how to work in town and camp in the bush without seeming suspicious, or more unorthodox advice, like

putting garlic in your ears for infections or baling hay in the nude. Also, an excellent and often harrowing account of a Mexican odyssey reprinted from Grundig. Whether you intend to roam free or just dream more realistically about it, DP can help. *PO Box 190, Philomath OR 97370* [\$1 20S :55] –Michael

The East Village Inky #11: Finally, we get to see a copy of this zine! And it turned out to be as good as all the reviews we've read said it is. Hand-printed short essays full of insightful and amusing observations are illustrated with plenty of cute little drawings. This issue features "Bitch Mother's Guide to the Body," "Brooklyn Café Society," and "Inky's Book of the Dead," to name just a few of the highlights. A pleasure to read! [40XS :30] –Sean & Malinda

•••**The East Village Inky #12:** Another issue of Ayun's victories and travails as a mother of two in New York City (well, Brooklyn). Directions for taking care of her kids, tales of travels on the subway and to Coney Island, and just chock full of adorable kid stories. Also contains some detailed directions to putting out a zine, which may be helpful to newbies. Don't order this if you're a kid-hater, but it's well written and a good read. *Ayun Halliday 122 Dean St., Brooklyn NY 11201, inky@erol.com, www.hipmama.com/evinky.html* [\$2, \$8 subscription, checks ok to Ayun Halliday 40XS :30] –Gordon

Emergency Instructions #2: "Europe Continued." Sophia is on a European road trip but she's poor, sick a lot, friendless most of the time, and occasionally shoplifts. This travelogue tells all, in a trip through Denmark, Germany, France, Brussels, and England. She's honest and a good writer; the story is fascinating. Note her fine b/w photo illustrations. Recommended travel zine. *Sophia Delaney, 537 W. Melrose #440, Chicago IL 60657* [\$2 36S :45] –Tom

Epicenter v5: A collection of poems and short prose pieces that vary, as most pieces do in litzines of this nature, from the inspiringly crafted to the profoundly mediocre. The layout is clean almost to the point of sterile, but if you're looking for poetry and prose from obscure, up-and-coming writers, this one is for you. *PO Box 367, Riverside CA 92502, falstaff@earthlink.net* [\$3.75 US and world, or trade 44M :30] –eric

Eraser Carvers Quarterly #45: This long running zine (#45!) spotlights some solid examples of erasercuts (rubber stamps) by at least 20 artists, plus some assorted articles such as a salute to George Lawrie Thomson's life work. The art given is first rate. My only complaint is that at 15 pages it seemed a little

short for the cost and it ended too soon. Otherwise recommended. *Mick Mather, PO Box 222, Clay NY 13041-0222* [\$3, \$10 US sub, \$12 Canada sub, \$15 foreign sub, checks /money orders to Mick Mather 16S :14] –Tom

Etidorhpa #5: "A Little Older, A Little More Confused." Levelheaded ramblings and fairly sharp fiction from a gracefully aging artist baffled by the rest of the world's resistance to her shameless normality. Her understated but occasionally provocative writings include her admission that she lacks empathy with veterans of unhappy formative years and a calm explanation of why she doesn't do drugs. Refreshing lack of pretense. *PMB 170, 40 East Main St., Newark DE 19711* [\$2, 2 stamps, 3 IRCs or trade 30M :28] –Emerson

Extreme Conformity #3: "Untitled by Anonymous." A single story consisting of all dialogue, written out like a play, but using little symbols and drawings instead of the characters' names. This is a cute and original format, although the political and social commentary provided here is oversimplified, and the whole situation plays out like a sitcom. Perhaps this is the author's intent, but we didn't see the value of treating the subject matter in this manner. Though we had mixed feelings about XC, we're fairly certain there's an audience for this. *406 Main St. #3C, Collegeville PA 19426, xconformity@yahoo.com, www.geocities.com/xconformity/* [\$2.50, \$6 for 2 issue/year subscription, no personal checks, money orders to "Larry Nocella" 59M :15] –Sean & Malinda

EyeBall #2: Formerly Indymedia, this new effort covers the indy/undy culture beat, focusing on print (Beantown Zinetown, Clamor), comics (Non), and cinema (Good Grief, Dial 5, director Ken Lindenmuth); as well as featuring more than a dozen pages of reviews. It's all cleanly presented and clearly printed. The reliance on interviews can make it a bit puffy and parsimonious – sort of like your typical music mag, except not about music – but I'd rather be generous, as it's early days yet for the EyeBall crew. [40M :41] –Michael

•••**EyeBall #3:** EyeBall is like an underground talkshow where indy stars are invited into the spotlight to chat about themselves and 'get the word out' about their latest projects. This issue is devoted largely to independent filmmaking, showcasing the insights of Jason Pankoke (Micro-Film), Hall of Mirrors director Brad Osborne, Hooty Studios boss Mike Branum, and Al Burian (Burn Collector), who stars in Andrew Dickson's indy movie Good Grief. Slick, digital production, and a lot of promotional content blur that line between amateur and commercial aesthetics, making

for a fairly ambivalent reading experience. High point: a hilariously asinine lambaste of The Match! from a self-described "cop-worshipper." *Chris Sharpe, PO Box 21141, Oklahoma City OK 73156, eyeballmag@yahoo.com, www.eyeballmagazine.com* [\$4 US/Mexico, \$5 elsewhere 68M 2:45] –Susan

F.T.W. #4: Ooooooh, F.T.W. – that's some attitude you're packin' there, youngster. Well! This is a little zine packed with crap thrown together in an hour or two. There's a phony interview with the publisher's roommate's dad about tapeworms, some supposed "satire" ("Irish" as racist slang, a plea for nerds to stop having sex), and a page or two of stuff that isn't funny, but they're pretending it is, which is the joke – but guess what? It still isn't funny. These are the kind of kids you wish would get off your lawn. (P.S. I hate to be picky about grammar and stuff, but I believe the accepted spelling is "rooty-poo.") *Joe, 7095 Hollywood Blvd. #1257, Hollywood CA 90028-8903* [\$? 28XL :15] –Karlös

Fanorama #23: Look, I'm not a fan of skin mags at all. I'm far more interested in the feelings and histories of the people involved in a sex act than in some freeze-frame, objectified 'perfect moment.' Ok, ok, with one exception: boys kissing each other. Hoo baby. Unfortunately for me, there's only one shot of a boy/boy liplock in this horny, punky queerfest. Instead there's some erotic and well-produced color photographs of bare-ass boys romping in the wild (yawn), some 'true-life' fuck stories (groan) and a host of great supporting features. Pretty friendly and diverse, actually, but really not my thing. *Reb, 109 Arnold Ave., Cranston RI 02905, fanorama@aol.com* [\$6, "more if you can/less if you can't" 36M 1:10] –Susan

Farm Pulp #40: "Fringe Element." Zinelandia's James Thurber keeps the silent laughter coming with another intricate layout job (perhaps you've heard this about Farm Pulp) and more cerebral, atmospheric fiction in his unmistakable office-centric style. Fuck McSweeney's: This is inspiring, esoteric, genuinely clever experimental humor that sticks. [28S :46] –Emerson

•••**Farm Pulp #41:** A longstanding zine with some pages folded and others half-sized, Farm Pulp is cleverly written and artistically made. Why don't I respond more favorably toward it? There's no accounting for taste. This edition focuses on a trip home to Dayton, Ohio, and ranges from musings about an inventors' convention there and why the editor's parents don't serve mixed drinks with little umbrellas in them, to imaginary scenes with Nikola Tesla, the Wright brothers, and Daniel Boone. *Gregory Hischak, PO Box 2151, Seattle WA*

9811-2151, Gregory.Hischak@thinkinc.com
[\$5, \$15 for 4 issues 32M :26] -Chris

Farming Uncle #82: This is supposed to be all about homesteading, holistic living, farming, and that sort of thing. It's got some stuff about that - an article about making hens lay all year, a listing of places to get seeds from, how to get rid of lice and mites in a henhouse, a reprint from a 1923 history book about the lives of the Tonkawa Indians, a bit about animal husbandry, and some more things of that nature. But all that stuff is utterly boring compared to all the crazy ads and quotes that are scattered about to make up the majority of the zine. Tons of tiny ads all packed in tight covering everything from psychics to newsletters to "Russian girls" who supposedly want "pen pals." The way it's all thrown together and the sort of eccentric wingnut feeling of it all is very reminiscent of those crazy ramblings on the packaging of Dr. Bronner products. Strange, very strange. *Toro*, Box 427, Bronx NY 10458 [\$2 24S 1:00] -Kyle

The Fat Kid's Life: A Primer (one shot): "or, A Bellyfull of Bile." As the title states, this zine is about being a large person in a weight-obsessed society. In the short time it takes to read this one-shot zine, you get the impression that this is therapeutic for the author, a 24-year-old "transitioning male." "I've got the ugly eating disorder, the one they don't make shows for ... Maybe I'm just a big, fat pig," states the author, who appears bitter as hell about his condition and society's (he includes the punk scene, too) reaction to it. If you're in his position, you may find empathy; if you're not, you may find perspective. *Hank Thigpen*, Xerox Revolutionaries, PO Box 3411, Tallahassee FL 32315-3411 [\$2 12S :10] -John

Fence Sitter #2: Litzine of, by, and for bisexual teens. With a couple of exceptions, the most interesting contributions are by Brandy, the editor. The rest of it is poetry or short fiction that was undoubtedly cathartic to write but not too engaging to read. Perhaps Brandy should do a perzine instead since her stuff's much better than the rest of the fencesitters, but maybe she's using the zine as a networking tool to make some friends and get some ass. You go girl! *Brandy Dettmer*, 6612 Sueno #10, Isla Vista CA 93117, fencezine@yahoo.com [\$1 plus 57¢ stamp or trade 40XS :20] -Wred

The Fifth Goal #4 (July 2001): This interesting cut-and-paste zine from Utah focuses mainly on the freight train graffiti scene. Contents include an interview with infamous paint stick graffiti artist Colossus of Roads, lots of black-and-white photographs of graffiti (much of which unfortunately didn't photocopy very

well, although it is legible), an interview with independent hip-hop artist Tangent, music reviews, and vegan recipes. Recommended, especially for those interested in graffiti. *PO Box 970085, Orem UT 84097*, blakecore@usa.net [\$2 38S :20] -Sean & Malinda

Film Gofer's Digest #2: A look behind the scenes of film. Andrew recounts his experiences creating his indie film *Good Grief*, getting to work with Mr. T on a commercial, and going to a prison to film a scene for TV's *The Fugitive*. Interesting anecdotal writing. *Andrew Dickson*, PO Box 12324, Portland OR 97212, andrewdickson@earthlink.net, www.goodgrief.com [\$1 20S :18] -Jerianne

Flagstaff Tea Party v2 #6: "A community forum for the discussion of progressive ideas." Independent Flagstaff, Ariz., monthly newspaper has pluses: 1) opposes media monopolies, 2) has a moral ad policy - "We will not run advertisements for alcohol or tobacco products, firearms, casinos, or vehicles powered by fossil fuel." 3) a long reader's comments section, and 4) clever cartoons. On the negative side the stories were more about liberal issues than Flagstaff issues, and more rambling features than community hard news. For example, the two main stories are about plane chemical trails and museum money struggles. A marginal thumbs up. *PO Box 22324, Flagstaff AZ 86002-2324*, dan_frazier@yahoo.com [Free, donations appreciated 24L :50] -Tom

Flying ~without~ Wings #5: Sarah gets a scanner for her computer, so she scans a bunch of pictures of herself (baby pictures, too) to fill in the spaces between the quote from Jewel ("I'm sensitive and I'd like to stay that way") and the sappy love-letters passing between Sarah and her boyfriend. Also: a picture of the sun! Of the 'please won't you like me' style of zine. *Sarah*, 47 Ironwood St., Islip NY 11751, sarah_the_bee@hotmail.com [\$1 and 2 stamps, or trade 32S :15] -Violet

Food Geek #4: Food, food, food! Carrie McNinch assembles an eclectic staff of writers and artists who prepare a whole menu of yummy features especially for people who really, really like to eat. The fare in this tasty zine ranges from snackish (Justin Gaunt's "Taco Bravo - Hold the Ants" to meaty and satisfying (Sarah Folkman's "When I think of Yoplait"). Excellent all around, but I particularly recommend the recipe for post-coitus pancakes and (my favorite) the Mystic Holy Rites of Polenta. Four stars! *Carrie McNinch*, PO Box 481051, Los Angeles CA 90048, foodgeekmmm@hotmail.com [\$1 in person, stores, or distros, \$1 plus 2 stamps by mail; lifetime subscription for old cookbooks or

P.O. BOX
55336
HAYWARD
CA 94545


SPUNK no. 7

the "EARTH" issue

"OUTSIDE LOOKING IN"
What is it about certain people that makes them able to break away from programmed thought? Sometimes I feel that the "truth" is so very static that for some it is obsolete. I know that once a mind is firmly cast around an idea, like cement, it can no longer be reformed, but only broken. America especially acts as a mold. What is it that --

Illustration drawn from the cover of the first issue of Emma Goldman's magazine *Mother Earth*, published 1906-1917.


I Hated, Hated
HATED
This Zine



IT'S TOTALLY FREE! (FREE, FREE, SET THEM FREE!) TO ORDER A COPY, JUST SEND ONE FIRST CLASS STAMP TO:
HATED ZINE
P.O. BOX 02222, DETROIT, MI 48202-9998.

insomniac
perzine of perpetual wanderlust and boredom.

\$2



email first for address:
kvezine@yahoo.com

a sample of your local/regional chocolate 36XS :25] -Susan

A Fool's Journal: A short story, written in diary format. Sympathetic details of a pathetic heartbreak. Everything the narrator sees becomes an omen - from a club-footed pigeon to a porno magazine thrown out of a passing car full of teenaged boys. Has unexpected moments of humor that sharply contrast the irrational depths of pain suffered by the dumpee. Too pricey for anyone but those who frequent literary circles. *Eric Robertson, c/o Freedom Voices, PO Box 423115, San Francisco CA 94142* [\$3 20M :12] -Jaina

For the Clerisy v8#43: These thoughtful media reviews serve as a jumping off point for discussions about all sorts of weighty, interesting topics, with this issue tackling prison, humiliation, Charles Manson, the Byzantine Empire, and the ascendancy of the image. Brant's conclusions often pulled my emotions in opposing directions (Yes, yes! No, no!), but they always challenged me to carefully think through my misgivings. This is excellent writing, and enthusiastically recommended. [12M :50] -Susan

*****For the Clerisy v8#44:** "Good Words for Readers." Many good words have been bestowed upon this zine in reviews, and it deserves them. Well-written and thoughtful, this zine should appeal to anyone with a passion for reading. Brant discusses many of the humorists who have influenced or affected him over the years (James Thurber, Ed Sanders, Robert Byron, etc.), including biographical info and occasional excerpts. Surely every reader will be introduced to at least one or two literary gems. Plus lively letters and reviews. *Brant Kresovich, PO Box 404, Getzville NY 14068-0404, kresovich@hotmail.com* [\$2, or "trade for a letter of comment or your zine" 16M 1:00] -Jerianne

FTW: Bryan hates nature, hates picnics, hates "rebels," hates Xmas, and hates... himself. At least he has a good sense of humor about it, and it shows in this rant-filled zine. *Bryan Berzins, 2226-B Wyoming NE #144, Albuquerque NM 87112* [\$1 20S :20] -Violet

Full Gallop #7: Ye gods, what a fucking mess. The artwork is grainy, the handwriting is wretched and I had to plow through 78 pages of impenetrable layout to get to the only thing that interested me: Iggy Scam's directions to his (no longer) secret office space in Asheville, NC (my old stroll). I can't recommend any publication responsible for the sort of headache I acquired from reading this. *PO Box 582514, Minneapolis MN 55458* [\$2 85S :25] -Emerson

Fuzzy Heads are Better #9: Former Punk Planet columnist (P2K Bug) Patti Kim puts out this zine, which features articles from a host of contributors, as well as plenty of writing from the editor. There's a very loose theme of feminism and menstruation in this issue. Includes reprints of Patti's last two columns for Punk Planet, some forgettable poetry, letters, and a few too many ads for a mini-sized zine. The highlights were Patti's well-written articles, all of which provided vivid insight into her life and her personality without getting too personal. Recommended. *Patti Young Kim, 2540 Maynard St., Apt. 106, Halifax NS B3K 3V5, Canada, www.interlog.com/~fhabzine, patti@bananapower.org* [\$2 72XS :40] -Sean & Malinda

Get Off My Lawn! #16: Perzine by a male punk rocker stranded in the hellpit we all know and love/loathe as the American Midwest. If you want to know what life is like in Grove, Oklahoma, this is the publication for you. Mr. Daniels, the publisher, has some good sense. He likes the bands The Sissies and Vaginal Discharge, and he knows to get the heck out of Dodge, er, Grove. *PMB 141, 7107 S. Yale Ave., Tulsa OK 74136, getoffmy@hotmail.com, www.angelfire.com/zine/getoffmylawn/* [\$1 32S :45] -Wred

A Girl and Her Bike #8: This rather beefy little zine reads pretty much like a diary, complete with what the author ate and what she was feeling when she woke up in the morning. Lots of people like reading other people's diaries; I kind of do. The major problem is that this one is very hard to read. Part of it is handwritten and almost completely illegible; the other part is typed with odd spacing that drove me nuts. If that is fixed, I'm sure the next issue will be fantastic. *Angie, PO Box 2425, Winnipeg MB R3C 4A7, Canada, alwayrockit@hotmail.com* [\$3US/Canada/Mexico \$4.50 elsewhere 110XS :30] -Nicole

Girl Imperfect #2/Heartbreak Stomachache #2: This is a split zine from two kids finishing up high school in San Francisco. *Girl Imperfect* is made up of mostly kind of dreamy, poetic meanderings about love and inspiration and summertime. *Heartbreak Stomachache* has a kind of Comethus-like feel with sort of witty examinations of various aspects of life such as sleeping in late, getting caught breaking rules, finding notes you wrote when you were way younger, and crushes. My only complaint is that I wish this zine were longer because just as I was getting into it, it was over. *Chris, PO Box 170565, San Francisco CA 94117-0565, christupher@hotmail.com* [trade 20S :15] -Kyle

Glue #2: "d.i.y. projects and tips." Want a

flashier look without paying top dollar? *Glue* tells you how to easily transform your clothes for a hip new look. Easy to follow directions, with diagrams, to create a symmetrical, laced, fringed, or backless t-shirt; glam, color-washed, deconstructed, or bleached jeans; faux fur collars and cuffs; and more. Grab your scissors! *chrissy, 45 Clifton Heights Lane, Marblehead MA 01945, cnaioah@excite.com, geocities.com/gluezine* [\$1.50 16XS :07] -Jerianne

Go Fuck Yourself #1: Hand-drawn and written guide to making sex accessories from household items. I'd wager it's the product of an obsession; the editor has obviously tried *all* of these things and thinks you should, too. The sloppy, all-caps print and unhinged giddiness ("TEE HEE!" "YAY!" "SLAPPIN' FUN") can be jarring, but what the hell: I enjoyed this immensely. *Andy, 1288 Columbus, Box #222, San Francisco CA 94133* [\$? 22S :16] -Emerson

Go Metric! #13: This is pretty standard fare for an indy zine, though it manages to pull off some great interviews and interesting articles. This issue features *The Young Fresh Fellows*, *Junior Varsity*, *The Figgs*, *Swearing at Motorists*, *The Sissies*, as well as the zinesters at *Spank*, and rockers at *Break Up Records*. Also, a few mediocre reviews of comic books, and a(nother) glance at mod culture. Many many record reviews make this one, taken altogether, a pretty tight issue. *2609L Village Court, Raleigh NC 27607, gogometric@yahoo.com* (moving, email to verify current address) [\$2 US, \$3 world 60M :45] -eric

Grafyti M'asSta: Fifteen pages of creative rubber-stamping. Repetitions of the phrase *Grafyti M'asSta* are stamped with red ink and arranged in totemic formations. Sometimes the letters are smeared and sometimes the letters are barely visible. Sometimes the letters are even upside down. Must be Art. *Kacper Jarecki, 4114 9th Ave, Apt 4F, Brooklyn NY 11232, kj13@dorsai.org* [36¢ or trade 15XS :05] -Dan

Green Anarchy #5: Anarchist, militant, newspaper from the Northwest with writing quality a notch or two above the sectarian publications it resembles. Heavy anti-technology, anti-civilization leanings, though it refuses to accept the label "primitivist." Many articles are reactions to other articles previously published in *GA* or elsewhere, which makes for disjointed reading if you haven't read those previously (web addresses are kindly offered so you can catch up). This zine definitely is not afraid to tackle the issues of the day in the anarcho-primitivist milieu, continuing debates about whether Black

Block-style actions are sexist (they say "no"), and critiquing anarchist support of the EZLN. Also a long article on "Anarchist Epistemology" is worthwhile (if at times overwritten) in looking at the contradictions inherent in both primitivist and traditional anarchist ideology. Some strawmen ("Some recent 'feminist' critiques of anarchism have condemned militancy as being sexist...") and class-baiting were annoying, and I disagree with much ideology-wise, but it's nice to see an anarchist publication debating and thinking about ideology and not just cheerleading the latest bash and trash event. [16L :30] -Gordon

***SECOND OPINION: This one inspired me to verse: They're anarchists, they're environmentalists / The trees have had enough, they're pissed! / They like the Unabomber and John Zerzan / So it's smash the state and fuck the man! / They like to greet lumber industry offices with fire and flint / But they still publish their propaganda on newsprint / They're from a city in Oregon called Eugene / They're the mean green rage against the machine! [:20] -Wred

***Green Anarchy #6: As the name implies, this is a newsprint zine with a decidedly anti-establishment and aggressive environmentalist tone. Much of the coverage focuses on ecological resistance actions in Oregon, but there are also research articles (with sources!), rants and coverage from around the globe. Feminists, ALF members and anarchists should find this a valuable tool for keeping abreast of resistance efforts and for getting involved in various movements. PO Box 11331, Eugene OR 97440, greenanarchy@tao.ca [\$2 US, \$3 Canada, \$4 UK, free to prisoners 20L 1:05] -John

Grub #101: The slogan of this zine reads "fine food for dumb shits," and that's truth in advertising, as this zine features recipes for the culinary challenged. But, wait, there's more! It's also a lot of fun, featuring writing about coffee addiction, potatoes, and cooking with an Easy Bake Oven. And as a special bonus for ordering right now, you get recipe cards in the front and back pockets of the zine. Not just delicious, but delightful presentation as well! Nick and Laura, PO Box 1471, Iowa City IA 52240 [2 stamps, or trade 28XS plus 4 recipe cards :15] -Wred

h2so4 No. 15: A hypercritical exploration of the minutiae of everyday life. If you're blessed with a general knowledge of Lacanian psychoanalysis, a Deleuzian worldview, and an obnoxiously ironic self-reflexive postmodern wit, you might find this one interesting. If not, you'll probably find a glut of unreadably confused and pretentious jargon by over-anxious grad students. The reviews in this one

are by far my favorite section: films, books, CDs, ice cream shops, razors, television shows, and concerts all schlepped together, subjected to psycho-sociological scrutiny and examined with clinical and humorous analysis. PO Box 423354, San Francisco CA 94142, js@h2so4.net, www.h2so4.net [\$4 50M :45] -eric

The Hairaffair Inc.: "The Cocoa Butter Sex Issue." This unrepentant "fanzine" buries a few intriguing non-sequiturs and anecdotes under choppy, incoherent fake interviews and migraine-inducing layout (the exact sort of sloppiness spoofed in Chocolate Impulse). This fellow has Warholian attitude to spare, but his zine needs focus, aesthetic discipline and ruthless editing. Jimmy Heartless, Reed College Box 707, 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd., Portland OR 97202, james.c.robson@reed.edu [\$? 14S :11] -Emerson

Hard as Nails: "The Tough Girl Compilation Zine." I think this zine embodies a great idea, with even better execution. Writers such as Kerith, Cheryl Tapper, Ericka Bailie, Rita Fatila, Mimi Nguyen, and Kelli Callis share what it means to be a tough girl, both physically and emotionally, as well as toughness in terms of race and class. Of course, the quality of writing is top notch, but here it's the message that carries the weight. I can't imagine anyone reading this zine, male or female, and not coming away more aware, with preconceptions broken and ideas changed. Lauren Martin, PO Box 596, Portland OR 97207, ymawl@yahoo.com [\$? 96XS 1:50] -Jerianne

Have You Seen the Dog Lately? (Summer 2001): "Candy Circus Peanuts Issue." Charming but brief zine featuring letters to the editors, a sexual attraction test for females (similar to a personality test), a comic strip starring beatniks, zine reviews, and a discussion of the joys of really bad candy. And the cover is the garish orange of a candy circus peanut! Over too soon! Meg, Jen, and Serena Makofsky, 465 38th St., Oakland CA 94609 [\$1 or 3 stamps 20S :10] -Wred

Head In A Milk Bottle v2#1: "Back From The Grave." Spirited, enjoyably crabby garage rock chronicle wakes from a fifteen year nap to mourn punk rock "superhero" Joey Ramone (without tears) and bitch about that great music industry hoax "new wave" just in time for its recent resurgence at the hands of gratuitous poseurs like The Faint. The editorials are choppy and amusing (although I wonder how many more times I can read reports from the porno palace without nodding off); the reviews are fairly harmless. This should engage the interested. PO Box 15125, St. Louis MO 63110, hiamb@garagepunk.com,

www.garagepunk.com/hiamb [\$3.50, cash or money order to Bob Thurmond 38M :17] -Emerson

Heartattack #30: Heartattack has pretty much become a staple of the hardcore/punk scene, holding it's weight right up there with other zines like MRR and Slug & Lettuce. But despite this, or maybe even because of it, I've heard a fair amount of complaints about it from a number of people. I think the problem some people have with it is that at times Heartattack seems to be little more than a soapbox for whiny scenesters to bitch and bicker over the same tired issues. I guess I can sort of understand people seeing it that way, but I think there's also so much more to it than that. Personally I feel that Heartattack is an amazing, thought-provoking, and challenging publication. Every issue I read gets the gears turning inside my head, and confronts me with pertinent ideas and issues. This particular issue covers so many different things, but here's just a few of them: growing up and leaving the scene, Christianity in hardcore, volunteering for drug studies, the Civil Rights Movement and lessons we can learn from it, interviews with Bury Me Standing and Le Shok, plus a plethora of music and zine reviews. Ebullition Records, PO Box 680, Goleta CA 93116, heartattack@ebullition.com [50 cents 88M 4:00] -Kyle

Heartbreak Stomachache #2: See Girl Imperfect #2.

Here #5: "The Stories Behind Where You Are." A literary magazine featuring personal essays about homes, places and histories. The contributors vary in style and presentation,



but all seem to have a similar background writing for various non-mainstream press publications. (This "alternate press" background fortunately keeps the essays from drowning in the flowery fluff found in many other independently published "literary" zines.) The strongest essays were Neil deMause's history of the Delaware Valley ("High Water Mark") and "New York Stories," written by a handful of contributors in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. *PO Box 310281, Red Hook Station, Brooklyn NY 11231, editor@heremagazine.com, www.heremagazine.com* [\$3 US, \$4 elsewhere, \$10 for 4 issues, \$16 elsewhere, submissions welcomed 44M 1:00] - Stefano

Hey Bastard, Listen to This #2: Looking at the title, partially obscured by masking tape to form a makeshift mailing label, I thought, "Oh, another 'IN-YOUR-FACE' zine by another disaffected youth with nothing to say except how he was drunk the other day," and, well, yeah, it kinda is, but it left me feeling more wistful than I ever would have guessed, and far less annoyed than I was gearing up for, so I guess that's a good thing. *Pete, 502 S. 49th St., Philadelphia PA 19143* [\$25+stamp, or trade 12S:15] -Karlos

Hot Wire My Heart #10: Boring perzine made by a bored teenager. Nearly each poem and article is about being bored, so it's not a surprise that the zine is a snore. Thankfully, the publisher knows it sucks and declares this the last issue. *Amanda, PO Box 721116, Roselle IL 60172, x0redrumx@aol.com* [\$1, or trade 24XS:10] -Wred

Hypothalamus: "Santa Barbara Zine Fest 4, limited edition." "Recent comic art and sketch book drawings by Mike Tolento," says the intro. A short zine of comics that is innovative throughout with the main story, a six-page homage to the artist Marcel Duchamp (you won't see that in the Sunday comics). Recommended. (But probably hard to get: "Available only at the Santa Barbara Zine Fest 4.") *Mike Tolento, PO Box 20028, Santa Barbara CA 93120* [\$? 12S:10] -Tom

Imagine #3: "A Journal of Anarchism." **DISCLAIMER:** I'm not an anarchist, or, for that matter, terribly political, which apparently makes me the worst possible person on staff to be reviewing this. Anyway, I fully expect this review to be reprinted in an upcoming *Imagine* so I can be publicly pilloried for my ignorance, as they do with a review from *Maximumrocknroll* in this issue; it sets a tone, really, as the next several pages are taken up with letters from readers asking "but what about child molesters? What about loggers? What about voting?" and Mr. Johnson retorts

at length with his obviously well considered thoughts. The theme continues with an article responding to the question, "Anarchy is a fantasy so why believe in it?" and a piece by a former anarchist about why he thinks anarchy won't work, followed by (of course) Mr. Johnson's lengthy reply. There's also an attack on Dharma and Greg, of all things, for airing a pro-police episode, and pages and pages of police brutality reports. Well-written and amiable in tone, it's easy to read and easy to understand (for which I am grateful); lots of stuff on applying anarchism to your daily life, rather than overthrowing the Powers That Be. *John Johnson, PO Box 8145, Reno NV 89507, imagine@hushmail.com* [\$3, \$4 Canada/Mexico, \$5 world, cash, stamps, or a check made to "cash," or trade for "anarchist zines of similar labor," free to prisoners if they send a two-page or longer letter about their life 68S 1:30 (and I'm not done)] -Karlos

Impact Press #32: Impact boasts that it covers issues the way that mainstream media should. In this installment, it delivers articles about the inequality in American education, the Republicans who mislead citizens into thinking that Alaska is the answer to our energy problems, the environmental costs of different diets, and more. Also included in this standard newsprint zine are columns, rants, reviews and letters. Yeah, Impact does the much-seen socio-political zine thing, but they do it well. *Craig Mazer, PMB 361, 10151 University Blvd., Orlando FL 32817, editor@impactpress.com, www.impactpress.com* [\$2 US, \$4 Canada/Mexico/elsewhere, free to prisoners 54M 1:15] -John

Incendiary Words v2#41: Three-sheet newsletter from Chicago Soccer FanAddicts (sic) is strictly for those involved. It made no sense to me with too convoluted writing. "In the FanAddicts we love soccer and we live in the Chicago metropolitan area. That's it." Articles: one organization disbands and reorganizes, a chart of a tournament, and that is about it. *Steve "Pudgy" De Rose, 4821 W. Fletcher St. #2, Chicago IL 60641-5113, pudgym29@mailandnews.com* [\$? 5M:07] -Tom

Inside artzine #9.0: Artwork from the dark corners and crevices of the mind. From what I could discern of the writing (entirely in German), the fiction and poetry are as well. Quality reproduction of artwork. From depraved and violently sexy, to alone and suffering, I hope the artists found some release. Perhaps the readers will, too. Includes reviews of zines and art sites on the Web. I'm impressed. *PO Box 10 07 54, 41407 Neuss, Germany, jenz@giracom.de* [5 DM in Germany, \$?, "interested in trading zines and art material" US 44L:20] -Jerianne

Invisible Robot Fish #10: "Not My Day." In this comic, an abstract, reptilian fellow undergoes the most blunt sort of humiliation, and only good Chinese food can ease his soul-sickness. Pure, unpretentious charm. *Billy McKay, PO Box 542, N. Olmstead OH 44070, billycsqp@aol.com* [2 stamps 16S:04] -Emerson

Irritant: This is a collection of four separate rants entitled "Powerfuck," "Living Abortions," "Fat," and "King of Pain." In the first rant, "Powerfuck," the author essentially makes the argument that rape is not wrong, but is a natural thing and he's not to blame for wanting to "use that bitch. That skanky bitch whore like she's never been used before. Hurt her. Maim her. Thrash that pussy. Make her scream. Cry. Weep." And it goes on like this. The next 3 rants are about how he feels handicapped people should be killed, how fat people make him sick, and how he thrives off of pain. I'm pretty disgusted by this shit and I really don't know what to say except that I think this guy is a fucked-up, heartless asshole scribbling out half-baked, poorly written, egocentric opinions. Fuck him. *Bryan Berzins, 2226-B Wyoming NE #144, Albuquerque NM 87112* [\$1 32S:30] -Kyle

It's Doomsday Motherfucker! by Robert W. Howington: A bunch of 30-year-olds are sitting around eating pizza and getting fucked-up in their friend's doublewide. It's just another routine day until someone brings over *Reservoir Dogs*. When the Tarantino flick sparks an interest within these loser guys to go on a crime spree, this work of fiction unfolds like a pulp story with its hard-boiled writing and quick pace. Lots of drugs, crime, and lap dances. If any of those things are up your alley, you probably won't be disappointed with Robert's tight fiction. *Genuine Lizard Press, PO Box 2044, Ft. Worth TX 76113* [\$1 US, \$2 elsewhere, no trades, free to prisoners 14S:12] -John

je ne sais quoi #11: "suddenly surreal." Not sure if this is always about surrealism, but it was interesting nonetheless. An anti-authoritarian, anti-establishment tone runs through this collection of mostly reprints from The Chicago Surrealist Group and other sources. Includes a review of a book of writings by T-Bone Slim, an interview with the founder of the 23 Skidoo indie public relations firm, some neat collages, and news of regional interest to Springfield, Illinois. This would probably appeal to anyone interested in surrealism or, for that matter, anyone who is just plain sick of bureaucratic tyranny. *PO Box 2407, Springfield IL 62705, zomba@cityscape.net* [\$? 10M:20] -Sean & Malinda

Jetplane Under Falling Skies #2 (Summer

2001): One guy's diary entries beginning Christmas Eve 1999 (the day after a break-up) and then dating January-May 2001, about hanging out in bars, not eating, walking in the middle of the night, riding Greyhound, spending nights outside in a sleeping bag. Who might want to read *Jetplane*? Perhaps someone wanting this reassurance: "I'm not alone in being alone." *Mike Saturday, 242 North River Rd., Charlottetown PE C1A 3L7, Canada, mike@aioku.com, www.aioku.com* [\$1, or trade, free to prisoners 16S :09] -Chris

journalsong #3: Typed on small scraps of paper taped to notebook pages and photocopied - there's no better way to present this zine. It's about heartbreak, and yet it's not: Instead, it's companionship of strangers, cats, jealousy, the library... It's turning yourself inside out while hiding in your cold room. And it's accompanied by perfect hand-drawn illustrations. *Steve, PO Box 3444, Portland OR 97208-3444, journalsong@hotmail.com* [\$1 for #1-3, "postage donations appreciated" 48XS :15] -Jerianne

Journey #5: "For Seniors on the Move," it says on the outside, but on the inside it says, "This is a comic catalog... if you see something you like in here, you can purchase for print in another publication." In other words, it's an uneasy mix between a supposed service for senior citizens and a shameless slab of self-promotion. Anyway, this is a collection of comic strips that claim to appeal to seniors, but seem geared towards a seven-year-old's mental level. I dunno, maybe I'm not hanging out with enough old folks, but I have to think that most of them would rather do a crossword puzzle or listen to a good book on tape than put up with this simple-minded tripe. *Walkabout Comics, D.S. Fields, PO Box 2772, Carmichael CA 95609-2772* [\$1 16S :15] -Karl

Jozine #3: "The Final Sequel." Your classic dead-trend fanzine. Complete with the exhaustive and exhausting documentation of pop cultural ephemera, the "the more you ignore it, the more it'll come back to ya!" self-justification and the cutesy, yipping text riddled with typos. The admittedly tasty selection of cartoon pin-ups in the back is the only thing about this pub that'll be of any interest to those that don't share the editor's monumental obsession with *Josie and the Pussycats*. *Don "Don-O" Fields, 1508 Faymont Ave., Manhattan Beach CA 90266 oddlystupid@yahoo.com, www.geocities.com/oddlystupid/Jozine.html* [\$2, selective trades 62S :18] -Emerson

Kaisa's Komiks #3: This could easily be considered Krishna propaganda. It's a bound paperback with color cover, and consists of a

narrative by a small mouse character that very much resembles Mickey Mouse. The mouse (i.e. the author) talks about her discovery of Hare Krishna from a personal perspective, and defends it against the beliefs and actions of members of society. The comix are contained within large panels, with lots of empty space. Some of this is amusing, although the fact that it is probably just very thinly disguised propaganda diminished its value in our eyes. *Mouse Zine Empire, c/o Absolute Truth Press, PL 356, 00151 Helsinki Finland, or Kaisa, 21B, 06100 Porvoo, Finland, kaisa@absolutetruthpress.com, www.absolutetruthpress.com* [\$5 63S :15] -Sean & Malinda

Karma Lapel: These one-panel comics look to me like the artist quick-drew a bunch of goofy pictures and then came up with a bunch of goofy descriptions to add to the comedy. Kinda funny, I guess, but this small, underachieving sketchbook makes me wonder what the artist's sense of humor would look like if it were developed beyond the first raw impulse. Impresses me as an in-joke, really not much to it. *PO Box 441915, Somerville MA 02144, mediadiet.blogspot.com* [\$? 16XS :05] -Susan

Last Wish part one: A confident embarkment upon a six-issue comic series. This was my favorite of my review-batch. Moody, beautifully detailed brush-and-ink art, legible lettering and a clean layout support a rather confusing plot. A young man is haunted by the women in his life as he finishes editing his student film in upstate NY. Transitions happen without warning in a series of flashbacks and flash-forwards. Bereinstain renders gorgeous cityscapes and interiors. It was a pleasure to reread. *Adam Bereinstain, PO Box 3843, Ithaca NY 14850-3843, lastwish@twcny.rr.com* [\$3 (email for cost outside of US), 40S :25] -Jaina

Leeking Ink #24: "The Minutia Issue." A diary spanning eight months in the life of a writer/zinester in and around Baltimore. Several road trips, book conferences, camping expeditions, hair styles, train trips, and dozens and dozens of horror films later, the diary comes to a sort of abrupt end - which I guess is the nature of diaries. I really liked this one; David's voice is pretty down to earth and she picks out all right minutiae to explore - even if sometimes I found myself reading through some of the slower parts with the same vague and idle interest you might have while looking through someone's sock drawer. *David Gypsy Breier, PO Box 963, Havre de Grace MD 21078, david@leekinginc.com, www.leekinginc.com* [\$2 30S :45] -eric

Library Bonnet #3: I think this may be my new favorite zine. Written by two librarians, it has

a range of topics including serious - "Sorry, Jubal" about being mean to someone and regretting it - to bizarre: a page with two cartoon animals talking about a picture of humans looking at books which I can't adequately describe. Also has a whole article on how to spell the word "pussy" (which I actually agonized over in something I was writing a year ago until I decided that I had to change the sentence so I could use "full of pus" instead. And for the record, the article that I was writing was not in any way descriptive of me). What put this over the top, however, was a page of "Rat Stories," my favorite being the one about a friend finding a rat in a birdhouse. "Inside (the birdhouse, the friend) made the grisly discovery of a half-eaten dead bird. I loved... thinking about the bird innocently eating his seed, then the rat just JACKING him in his own home and biting him, then the rat ghoulishly deciding to live in the house with his dead bird, alternatively eating off of it and using it as a pillow." A prior ARG reviewer called the editors "just plain mean" but this made me want to get all the back issues. *Tommy Kovac, 1315-I N. Tustin Ave. #259, Orange CA 92867, fulie_4J@yahoo.com* [\$2, or (limited) trades 26S :25] -Gordon

Lift/Gravity/Thrust/Drag #3: "My Air Travel Obsession." All about planes and plane travel, this issue deals with the so-called "Mile-High Club." There's a few sexy stories told by gay flight attendants in here. These stories are graphic but not offensive. There's also a short tale about Paul's trip to Boston to scope out an apartment there. One thing becomes abundantly clear when reading this lightweight, affable zine: This guy is nuts about flying! One can only imagine how much he'll like it when he finally gets some action while airborne. *Paul Gilbert, 386-A Capp St., San Francisco CA 94110* [\$1, "a few stamps" 28XS :30] -Violet

lightning bug zine #2: This is a short little zine using images, most of which appear to be clipped from magazines, to illustrate quick snippets of sentences that tell the story of meeting someone and loving them not for the wonderful things they make, but for the simple fact that they make wonderful things. Kind of artsy and cutesy, and a really quick read. [20XS :02] -Kyle

...**lightning bug zine #3:** "my dead bamboo." Actually, it's just dying. At least at the time this sad, sad, sad, sad, sad zine was written, it was dying. The actual death probably occurred while kirsten was photographing the interior illustrations and hand-making the cover. Screw the story's philosophical undercurrent; why didn't kirsten save her plant instead of making this awful zine? [11XS :05] -Susan

•••lightning bug zine #4: Like a wee calling card, this is one young woman's mostly superficial story about moving to California from Canada as a child, the two houses in which she grew up, and the feeling she had when leaving for Oregon to start college. Pluses: nice presentation (typed) and a lovely Basho haiku. Drawback: whets appetite for more than it delivers. [\$1, or trade 16S :04] –Chris

•••lightning bug zine #5: This looks like a spontaneously created zine on the author's feelings about cooking. No recipes though, and no real stories. It's more of a quick investigation into the narrator's ideas on the shared joy of cooking, complimented by some good cut-n-paste graphics. An even tinier tuck-in zine at the back (lightning bug 5.5) gives a run-down of a short conversation aboard Portland's public transit. *kirsten a.e. munro, PO Box 3824, Portland OR 97208, tweefille@hotmail.com, www.lightningbugzine.com* [50¢, or two 34 cent stamps 12XS :10] –eric

Lily on the Beach #9: "Good Voodoo." We all know it's kind of hard to pick up fiction mid-story, even if the author is kind enough to give you a recap. That's why, if you haven't read any of *Lily on the Beach*, you need to order #1-8 (#1-6 come bound together) and get your ass caught up. This is a great story, well worth the investment. In this installment, Jamie has finally arrived at the moment of her destiny and is unveiled as the Dark Traveler. While her body lies in a coma, Jamie's presence bi-locates to the compound of Baptista, the Last Martyr. Just as the best lies have their feet in truth, this fantasy story about the salvation of mankind works because of its roots in reality. (The First Martyr was David Koresh, driven insane by the power of Current – the mystical force directing the fate of mankind.) When Baptista's standoff ends and Jamie awakens, she realizes her work is about to begin. Honestly, this is some of the best fiction I've read in years. *Bloody Mary's Cool Sister, PMB 170, 40 E. Main St., Newark DE 19711* [\$2, 3 IRC, or trade 30M 1:10] –Jerianne

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Lime #6: This sincere but fluffy zine contains accounts of dreams, anecdotes about working at an upscale supermarket, a comic about "Grandma Klassen's scary bathroom" (its oak door had a monstrous pattern in its wood grain), and photos of a "cool" bathroom at the University of Minnesota. If Lime were a meal, I'd still be hungry, though I'd admit it didn't taste bad. [20S :09] –Chris

•••Lime #7: Ariana loves the summertime. Ariana loves cats and dancing, particularly cats. She likes to dance. Some frothing idiots patronize the store where she works. Her friends say some loopy things. She remembers her childhood pals with opaque fondness and writes descriptive cereal reviews. Mostly empty calories, but sharply perceptive and massively endearing. *Ariana Klassen Glanzer, 4541 Xerxes Ave. S, Minneapolis MN 55410-1420* [\$1, or "nice trade" 28S :12] –Emerson

Living Free #119: Independent, libertarian newsletter with interesting short articles on why the Civil War was really fought and the electoral college. Also includes other bits about off-the-grid type subjects like water collecting and an exchange with a reader about the possibility of rigging the moon to collect solar power. The letters and other writers show more of that typically libertarian social Darwinism than the author, who seems like a straightforward, decent kind of guy. *Jim Stumm, Box 29-ARG, Hiler Branch, Buffalo NY 14223* [\$2 sample (cash preferred), \$12/6 issues, checks ok to Jim Stumm 8M :10] –Gordon

Mamazine #2 (Summer 2001): "Grow Your Own." A submission-based zine intended to honor radical parents of all types. We weren't too excited about most of the poetry and art in here, but most of the essays were good. Highlights included articles on the Women, Infants, and Children program (WIC), and on raising a child without using diapers. Parents who don't feel much community with mainstream parents will probably appreciate Mamazine for its diversity and inclusiveness. This unique zine seems like it will continue to grow, especially considering the proliferation of radical parents these days. *4135 Cooper Point Rd., Olympia WA 98502, olympiamamazine@hotmail.com* [\$1.50 41S :20] –Sean & Malinda

The Man Done Sued (II) : "I have not been published by New York yet, because my books are as unconventional and inflammatory as his (Joyce) were, in his day. This is not a commercial disadvantage, if you once get past the gatekeeper. But convincing the gatekeeper you're any good is an uphill task, for an unknown, and much-rejected writer." That quote suggests a summary of this zine, a rant by the author, often in dialogue form and with assorted inside literary references, but also often obtuse and free form. Writers having trouble selling their work will commiserate; others may be lost and confused. Also note the literary device he discusses, of writing in the second book of a series about how the first book was published and received by the public – thus mixing reality and fiction. [32S :60] –Tom

•••The Man Done Sued (III), by Jack Saunders: Not having read *The Man Done Sued I and II*, I'm not sure what this is about. Most of it is questions and answers, e.g.: "Q: Is *THE MAN DONE SUED* a parody of *THE WIND DONE GONE*? A: No...I prefer to call it a pastiche, or imitation." A self-described former liberal "redneck" criticizes "the way white people are portrayed in the media" and explains why he stole a pair of baby shoes. [32S :16] –Chris

•••The Man Done Sued (IV): I think the reason that some people praise Jack Saunders, the author of this zine, reflects a deeper longing for a recognition of class in America. Somewhere in the confusion of Saunders's writing is a truth: Class is real, and just being white, male and straight does not give you instant access to power. At its best, it's good writing about working people and artists trying to survive in a world that is set up to make them fail. Unfortunately, this zine doesn't have a whole lot of those peaks. Instead, every time I was starting to get interested, some weird and confused combination of claimed victimhood as a white man and

baseless boastfulness would show up to overshadow everything else. An example: "I don't see a woman as having any more barriers than I do, now. I see her as having fewer. / The same with race. A black person doesn't have to be twice as good. He has to be half as good. / To say what I was trying to say you have to be completely nuts. Or very good. And I'm not nuts. I'm good." Though filled with references to Bukowski, Heller, and Faulkner, the writing style is more like Vonnegut on a day without ideas: direct sentences, short paragraphs, and repeated catch phrases going nowhere. At one point Saunders, questioning himself (as in Q & A, not as in "Is my writing any good?"), declares that what he is after is speech that some people feel should be censored, exposing himself to fire to "make them reveal their positions." In the end it reads as a defensive, if not just paranoid, piece of work. [\$? 34S (pages are numbered 99-130. Should this be read as part of a longer work?) :30] -Gordon

•••The Man Done Sued (V): This should be renamed "The Man Done Complained"...about not getting published... over and over again. Starting off with Jack's journal entries, we read his complaints about not being able to get published. Then comes Part V of a story in which the main character is a writer who can't get published. Are you starting to sense a trend? If Jack wants to get paid for writing so badly, maybe he should put a price on the "books" he sends out for review. To top it all off, there's a color copy of a photo on the cover, featuring Jack's naked blonde wife sitting on his (clothed) lap. Classy. *Jack Saunders, Garage Band Books, Box 930064, Norcross GA 30003-0064* [\$? 27S :30] -Sean & Malinda

The Match! #97: The events of September 11th sparked several responses from this "journal of ethical anarchism," as might be expected, and the opinions of the editor (i.e. "religion is the enemy of mankind") are argued clearly and passionately. Not to be missed is the "review" of *The Koran* and a guest column dealing with banned books vs. *Harry Potter*. About a third of the hefty publication is given over to letters from readers and the editor's responses. *Fred Woodworth, PO Box 3012, Tucson AZ 85702* [\$2.75 newsstand, otherwise by freewill donation 78M 1:00] -Suzanne

A Maze Zine: I like mazes. This hand-drawn zine features 22 mazes of varying intricacy, as good as a booklet you could buy in a store. (Though I doubt you'd find one there featuring Pac-Man characters on one page, Charles Bukowski on another, and different pubic hairstyles on another.) Breezed through a couple, stumbled on "buggin' out." I'm saving "the Mother Fucker" for a special occasion. *Thaddeus, 212 Southbury Road, Roxbury CT*

06783-1902 [\$? 24S :15 (first session, still plenty o' mazes to go)] -Jerianne

Media Medea #2: The centerpiece is a six page examination of Dee Snyder's 1998 horror film, *Strangeland*. Every aspect of the plot is discussed ad nauseum, and we are treated to a critical parsing of its socially significant subtext. This is the guy from Twisted Sister we're talking about. It probably took the author more time to write this article than it did for Dee to slop down the entire screenplay. Drawn-out humor columns also present. A few funny moments. *Lana Cooper, 7180 Walker St., Apt. #2, Philadelphia PA 19135, barones1703@hotmail.com* [\$2.50 US, \$3 Canada/Mexico, \$3.50 other, or trade 40S :30] -Dan

Meniscus #7: Ooh, hand-colored cover. On the inside, stories about traveling to Amsterdam, tarot cards, Jerry Springer, and keeping rodent pets; in other words, standard zine fare, but the writing is competent enough. There's also a batch of very short fiction - like, each piece is a page long - but I still found it hard to get through. Maybe that's the stuff he writes stoned. Ah, this one actually says something about an "inward journey" - proof positive. *Matt Fagan, 1573 N. Milwaukee Ave. PMB 464, Chicago IL 60622, hadmatter@hotmail.com* [\$4 US, Canadians add "one packet of RocoDile Red or Purplesaurus Rex Kool-Aid," or trade, "maybe" free to prisoners 56S :45] -Karlös

Merge Disorder: I love everything about this zine. The writing is above par. Cheryl's sense of design shines. The cut-away front and back covers are striking. The color block prints are beautiful. Cheryl's piece on having genital warts, developing pre-cancerous tissue as a result, the medical dealings she's had, and the resulting emotions and relationship impact is dramatic, without being melodramatic. The article on self-image and self-reflection is as good as any I've seen on the topic. And Cheryl's writing about how her pro-choice stance does not conflict with her being adopted (because she realizes adoption is no the perfect solution in all cases) is well worth a read. Plus, near the end you'll find a tiny envelope containing a tiny booklet of heart-touching prose about love lost and time past. Wonderful. Absolutely wonderful. *Cheryl Tapper, PO Box 5241, Somerset NJ 08875* [\$2+2 stamps 44XS plus 28XS 1:00] -Jerianne

Micro-Film #4: "The Magazine of Personal Cinema in Action." Covering all things filmic across North America, Micro-Film is one of the best resources on the indie film revolution around. Though the bulk of this one consists of featured reviews of current independent films, it also includes articles on the crossover of

comix and film; interviews with lesser known filmmakers, actors, and crew; and some reviews of under-appreciated classics. A great resource for anyone interested in the current goings-on in the independent film world. *Opteryx Press, PO Box 45, Champaign IL 61824, micro-film@artisticunderground.com, www.artisticunderground.com/mf_unbound* [\$3.50 US, \$5.25 Can, \$10 for 3 issues in US, \$14.00 outside 40M :45] -eric

Minimum Security #1: A collection of left-leaning political comics in the vein of Tom Tomorrow of *This Modern World*, illustrating and critiquing mainly American greed and consumer culture. A lot of these suffer from a severely self-conscious political didacticism, even though I generally agree with a lot of what Stephanie has to say. *Stephanie McMillan, PO Box 2083, Ft. Lauderdale FL 33303, steph@minimumsecurity.net, www.MinimumSecurity.net* [\$? 15S :25] -eric

Mister Fujiyama Loves You #2: Dream diaries, favorite lists, journal entries, haiku, random thoughts, collage - all the things that make a perzine worth reading. This one is well written, too. Sheena clearly had fun putting this one together, which makes it all the more fun to thumb through. *Sheena Allen, PO Box 238, Ferndale PA 18921* ["postage price is the only necessary price" for all addresses (2 oz.), or trade, free to prisoners, 48XS :45] -eric

Monstress #3: What I liked: a Kahlil Gibran quotation about pain and understanding, the fact that there's a contribution by a 9th grader, and a review of *Nakednews.com*. What I didn't like: the paean to Bon Jovi, the piece by the 9th grader, and cynical comments about living in New Jersey. So-so: a poem from the editor's mom and commentary on research about "fake orgasms" in fish and what soup preferences say about personality. *Erica Vonderheid, PO Box 576, Union City NJ 07087, evonderheid@hotmail.com, www.monstress.org* [\$1, or trade 16S :13] -Chris

Motion Sickness #11: This substantial punk rock fanzine is well written, interesting, and full of attitude. Following *Maximumrocknroll's* format-columns, interviews, reviews - this edition includes a fine column by the editor about honesty in relationships, one by Screams From Inside editor Carissa on rape in the punk community, an article on restaurant etiquette (recommended for anyone who's never worked in food service), and an interesting interview with cartoonist Carrie McNinch, with excerpts from her *Assassin and the Whiner*. *G. Phillips, PO Box 24277, St. Louis MO 63130, philsick@swbellnet* [\$2 80M :41] -Chris

A Multitude of Voices v10: This is an incredibly thick collection of poetry and artwork. Usually I would roll my eyes and moan at the thought of having to trod through a poetry collection like this, and I probably did when I first picked this up, but as I got to reading it I realized that this thing is actually pretty good. Sure it has its fair share of moan inducers, but the hand-printed cover, the short stories, the artwork, and, yes, even some of the poems made it well worth the read. And the most amazing thing of all is that this thing is free! *Matt Holdaway, 1945 B Berryman St, Berkeley CA 94709, mholdaway@hotmail.com, www.amultitudeofvoices.com* [free, or trade, free to prisoners 180M 2:00] –Kyle

•••**A Multitude of Voices v12:** Art, poetry, and narrative are crowded together in this raw, hit-and-miss zine. A few long comics were meaningless filler to me, but Thien Pham's strips had their usual charm and a strip called "Skinned-alive-boy" looked promising. "Just Another Star," a story of a classmate who spends his last night alive with a friend, was my favorite. Priced to move. *Matt Holdaway, 1945 B Berryman St., Berkeley CA 94709-1955, mholdaway@hotmail.com, www.amultitudeofvoices.com* [Free, or trade, free to prisoners 60S :29] –Michael

My Back Pages #1: Ian spent a good part of his high school senior year seated under shade trees, either pouring himself earnestly into this notebook diary or weaving in and out of the affections of his ex-girlfriend. Boldly, he challenges himself to peel back the layers of his own conditioning, so I was disappointed that much of this debut simply documents the numb, sentimental process of graduation. Ian is certainly struggling to find out who he is, but it's his self-confrontations, not his conclusions that make this zine worth watching. *Ian Latta, 4017 D St., Sacramento CA 95819* ["the usual" 24S :40] –Susan

My Evil Twin Sister #4: "Notta Lotta Love Stories." Free-spirited female trolls the West Coast freak scene and gets entangled with shady, unwashed guys with handles such as "Cap" and "Gnat." My beef with this zine is my beef with "perzines" in general: It's self-indulgent, presumptuous, a bit humorless, crammed with arguably unnecessary detail and lacking explicit insight. Nonetheless, Amber is a fluid writer capable of chilling description; I'd love to read her thoughts on something unrelated to her sex life (though it's certainly a rich one). [:33] –Emerson

•••**SECOND OPINION:** I always pick up **METS** when I see it. It doesn't come out often, and honestly this is more book than zine really, but it's always worth the price for good writing and beautiful layout. This issue

contains a history of relationships, some sweet, some cringe inducing. It reads like an autobiographical novel and I read it in one sitting. It dragged in a spot or two, and the section that's heavy on the hippie community stretched my ability for empathy, but Amber can tell stories better than most zinesters. I recommend it. *Amber Gayle, PO Box 1318, Cooper Station, New York NY 10276, or PO Box 1373 Jacksonville OR 97530, ambergayle@hotmail.com* [\$5 46S 1:00] –Gordon

My Fat Irish Ass! #3: "The Official Magazine of Absolutely Nothing!" MFIA is the official fanzine of Assbeaters, a now defunct DC area band. MFIA humorously obsesses on former drummer Tom Paine and his many mental problems, drunken antics and other sordid vices. Although entertaining at times, I found MFIA riddled with inside jokes that are probably hilarious for those "in the know," but are annoying for those who aren't. The best part was the doctored up "Family Circus" comics. *PO Box 65391, Washington DC 20035* [\$1 30M :30] –Stefano

My Strange Malady #2: Reviews of movies, zines, and mix tapes; letters; and a couple of miscellanies. Pretty interesting read, especially the list of items James would buy if he had extra cash. The movie reviews revealed too much about the plot and not enough about the quality, for my tastes, but the zine reviews were better. Beware: tiny, tiny type. *James N. Dawson, PO Box 613, Redwood Valley CA 95470* [\$1, or trade, free to prisoners 20S :25] –Jerianne

Mylxine #15: Activist kids from Pensacola write about going to a self-defense convergence in Seattle, hitching a ride with a truck driver, the WTO protests, fighting the death penalty, the pros and cons of mental medication, and researching the Pensacola streetcar strike of 1908. Plus found letters, zine/record reviews, and a couple of band interviews. Friendly and readable, but nothing really grabbed me. You could do worse for your cash, though. *309 N. 6th Ave, Pensacola FL 32501, mylxine@hotmail.com, www.23skidoo.org* [\$2 68S :45] –Jerianne

Mysterious Visions v4#1: Poetry zine, better than most, but if that's not damning with faint praise I don't know what is. Actually I've read work by a few of the poets here before (Will Dockery, Lisa Scarboro, etc.) and it was better than this, so maybe this was just an off-issue. After all even poets have their bad rhyme days. (yeah, yeah, I know about free verse, here's some for you, piss off!) *Dimestore Productions, 6733 Erie Ave., Madison OH 44057, www.dimestoreproductions.com* [\$? 12S :05] –Wred

The Mystery and Adventure Series Review No. 34: This issue is dedicated to the Ken Holt series of books from mid-century golden era of 'series literature.' The author delves deep into this tiny corner of the genre to analyze every volume of Ken's adventures, the importance of the series as a whole, as well as his own experiences with the author and his novels. More interesting are the letters section and the editor's ideas on self-publishing and printing – an informative forum on the modern publishing industry and the importance of independent printers and publishers offering alternative models. *Fred Woodworth, PO Box 3012, Tucson AZ 85702* [free, though donations are accepted (no checks!)] 91M :45] –eric

Neurotic Behavior: "This booklet is number two in a monthly series of very short stories by Mary Burt." You'll laugh 'til you cry at the foibles of two geeks on an ill-fated audition for a **Newlywed Game**-style show. Wonderfully written in the confessional yet provocative tone that makes her **Sad Magazine** so damn entertaining. It's like she bullies you into spying on her. A real gem. *Mary Burt, PO Box 291853, Los Angeles CA 90029* [\$1 8XS :10] –Jaina

New Jersey Bowel & Bladder Control #2: If all poetry collections were like this, I'd buy a lot more poetry zines. The authors are from New Jersey except for Harvey Pekar (of **American Splendor** fame), and this issue contains work from a couple of my favorite contemporary poets: Joe Weil and Joe Salerno. Most of the works contained inside are unpretentious poems about working, paying bills, neighborhoods, and everyday life. I can't say I liked everything, but I did like most of it and I liked NJBBC more than most zines I get. All the writers take their craft seriously, but almost all retain a sense of humor. Mostly poetry, some prose, some reviews, and an interview with Beat poet Herschel Silverman. [:30] –Gordon

•••**SECOND OPINION:** **New Jersey Bowel and Bladder Control #2:** Poetry from New Jersey. My favorite bits were from Joe Salerno and Joe Weil. But they aren't really poems; they're prose in poetry form. Good, clean layout. *Iniquity Press/Vendetta Books, Dave Roskos, PO Box 54, Manasquan NJ 08736* [\$4 32S :25] –Jay

The New Scheme #3: There's a stack of zines very much like **The New Scheme** in a smoky music venue near you. But between the record company ads and mostly positive reviews of snarky college-rock and bubblepunk you'll probably never hear, there's some spirit in this. I seldom see this sort of rag interview a writer; this one's got the amusing (and relatively below-the-radar) Adam Voith of **TNI**

Books and the zine *Little Engines*. And the Shai Hulud interview (never heard of 'em either, and I'm a college radio music director) is brisk, rambling and funny. Some amusing tour diaries, too, if that's your thing. *Stuart Anderson*, PO Box 19873, Boulder CO 80308, stuart@thenewscheme.com, www.thenewscheme.com [\$2, \$4 world 56M :09] -Emerson

The New Settler Interview #128 (July/August 2001): I learned a new word, and in a big way - cob! No, not corn-on-the, or pipe - cob is the name of the material made of dirt, clay, sand, straw, and water that is used by rustic homesteaders to build houses. This issue spends a long time with homesteaders Callegagh Ferrara and Tom Frame, of Mad River, Ca. They live in an intentional rustic community that is virtually cut off from access - by a river, and/or snow - for much of the year. They grow ornamental garlic to sell at craft fairs and otherwise essentially live off the land. In a long conversation with them, Beth Bosk learns the history of the patch of land they chose, the two-year process of building the house, the difficulties of roofing, and their sense of themselves in that space and time. It's a fascinating, articulate story and one that is apparently shared by a small yet swelling worldwide community that is learning how to build this way. This issue also has an interview with two redwood tree sitters (in the Forest Defense of the Mattole), and a lengthy interview with Ray Raphael, who wrote *A People's History of the American Revolution: How Common People Shaped the Fight for Independence*. A dense, meaty zine. PO Box 702, Mendocino CA 95460 [\$1, \$15 for 10 56M :hours] -Jacque

The Newsletter v3 #1: The editor appears to be an ordained minister of The Church of the SubGenius, while one of the writers "wants to make out with any chick that has breasts. And that'll let me feel them." It's a shame that this well-constructed zine is full of such idiotic immature "humor." Contents include: "How to Sexually Harass Someone," band interviews (The Dwarves - not surprising considering the mostly sleazy subject matter of the zine), video game reviews, and various other items not even worth mentioning. [30M :20] -Sean & Malinda

•••**The Newsletter v3#2**: Labeled "copyright Bobbos Dobbos 1984," this haphazard zine contains three pages transcribing minimally articulate conversation (of the "Bitch ass mother fucker!" variety), a supposed interview with a KKK member, commentary on pro wrestlers ("Superstars of the WWF!"), a list of top five TV shows (#1: *The Simpsons*), and suggestions for a new zine title. Its inane frosh humor attempts may induce tears for the trees

downed to make the paper on which it was printed. *Doktor Rev. Shaw*, 621 S. Elder St., Anaheim CA 92805, doktorrevshaw@hotmail.com [\$1 US, no trades, free to prisoners, \$3 for audio cassette 32S :5] -Chris

No Man is a Riker #3: At first glance it's your typical anti-cop anarchist type zine. The major difference is that instead of babbling on about injustices from afar, the articles are by people who were actually in the midst of real police brutality, protests, and the like. I was annoyed by the accusation that by voting I am contributing to a suppressive country, but everyone is entitled to his or her opinion, I guess. I also found some of the other stereotypes (all cops are bad, etc) a bit agitating, but all in all it was a good read. PO Box 1273, Cypress CA 90630, RevSean@LitmusGreen.com [\$1 18S :20] -Nicole

No-Pest Strips #14/The Timelike Ad Sheet #6: No-Pest Strips starts out by talking down about zines, followed by two pages of nasty reviews. It basically states that all zines are crap, unoriginal, and so on. The rest consists of a comic about how a comic book came to be, or at least that's what I got out of it. The sour note that it started with left a bad taste in my mouth, and the rest did nothing to cleanse it. The other half contains a few ads; an article about a PBS news show that the author feels is evil, and a bit about how Detroit is evil. Does this guy like anything at all? *Yul Tolbert*, PO Box 02222, Detroit MI 48202-9998, yul_tolbert@hotmail.com [\$3 U.S. / \$4 Canada or Mexico / \$5 elsewhere 18S :20] -Nicole

Not My Small Diary #9.0: Delaine solicits 1-2 page diaries from a variety of capable cartoonists. The results are well drawn, but the quotidian plots tend to plod along: 'I did this. I did that. I checked my email. I drew this comic.' Others delve into bizarre memories of scary clowns, scary toilets, or glam-rockers. Contact info is provided after each contribution, so NMSD does well to promote these independent artists. Excellent and astonishingly cheap: [44S :45] -Jaina

•••**Not My Small Diary #9.1**: I guess you could call this a compendium of comic strip creative non-fiction. Or diary comics. Or cartoon memoirs. Basically, a collection of short, autobiographical stories in comic form. Style and subject matter varies, though most of the strips focus on small moments - the everyday stuff we don't pay enough attention to. Twenty-three artists contribute, and the journal is quite handsome. Pleasant and personal. Whimsical, unthreatening, and occasionally funny. *Delaine*, 1204 Cresthill Road, Birmingham AL 35213, delangel3@hotmail.co, Mysmallwebpage.cjb.net/ m [\$2 (for NMSD

#9.0 and 9.1) 41S :25] -Dan

Nothing but CARNAGE: A bird sits on a windowsill next to a guy taking a crap, and proceeds to spit out a mini-monster that infests the crapping guy and causes him to mutate. And that's where the fun begins in this wild comic book by Michael S. Baker. The (wordless) story is a bit muddled at times, but the artwork is absolutely stunning. If you like intense, crazy, violent comic books, then this puppy is for you. Beautifully published, too. *Pipedream Press*, PO Box 400737, Cambridge MA 02140, www.fortunatepipedream.com [\$3 (age stmt) 28M :07] -Steve

Nursery Rhymes for Global Crimes: Here's the premise: Try altering the lyrics to the famous nursery rhymes to tell the story of the world's infamous political frauds and abuses of power. Anthony does a pretty good job, almost pulling it off. There are some really great rhymes in here, along with a few in which the balance between form and content is strained and the writing devolves either into nonsensical surreal rhyme, or browbeating political rhetoric. *Anthony Rayson*, South Chicago ABC Zine Distro, PO Box 721, Homewood IL 60430 [? 24S :30] -eric

Obscureerotica #1: "Kill Charley Varrick." This friendly, personable zine contains reviews of "B" movies as well as lesser-known classics that might not be readily available on the shelves of the local corporate video store. Editor Brian Johnson shares his quick sense of humor and vast background of insight, which includes filmographies of the "great" artists who brought these movies to life. Although I avoid most "B" movies (except for the ones featured on the divine *Mystery Science Theater 3000*), this zine sparked my curiosity regarding a 1973 Walter Matthau bankrobber movie entitled *Charley Varrick* - a cult movie that I'll definitely be looking for. *Brian Johnson*, 11 Werner Road, Greenville PA 16125-9434, glorystomper@webtv.net [\$2, or trade 20S :30] -Stefano

Obscurity Unlimited #9 (August 2001): This is an up-and-coming small press resource designed to facilitate transactions between publishers and readers. It involves what the editor calls a buyer's club, but what seems to be just another distribution service. The distro catalog is located on the website, and the print publication gives details on how the buyer's club works, as well as including some reviews of small press stuff. Although it seems like the people behind this have good intentions, it also appears that they are trying to put more structure into the zine community by making zine and comix sales into proper business transactions. Personally, we prefer the individ-

uality and diversity inherent in ordering zines directly from editors. Some publishers might be interested in this resource, but we still get the feeling that a service like this takes the personal aspect out of zine transactions. [27S :20]—Sean & Malinda

•••Obscurity Unlimited #12: A paper portal to yet another corner of the small press. This one has a comic-oriented slant, but it does a good job of covering goings-on with address changes, publisher's clubs, small press events, and a little gossip. My only beefs are with the tiny review section (almost all comics), the numerous spelling and typing errors, and that the copier seemed to be running low on toner when my copy was squeezed through. *Dimestore Productions, 6733 Erie Ave., Madison OH 44057, OU!@dimestoreproduction.com, www.dimestoreproductions.com* [\$2 US, \$4 world 31M :30]—eric

The Official Journal of Urban Loneliness: Wow. This is one of the most idiotic comic books I've ever seen. The only strip that I could even make heads or tails of was about squirrels on campus forced to do acrobatic tricks for tips, so they can buy popcorn to eat, because the Biology Department had genetically engineered trees not to produce nuts. Maybe a hit of acid would help me pull some sense out of the haphazardly placed word balloons and juvenile drawings. *John, 3022 Fulton St., Berkeley CA 94705 or 275 Via El Encantador, Santa Barbara CA 93111* [\$2 52M :10]—Jerianne

Off-Line #16: Although there is a lot of very good and informative content in this zine focusing on the war in Columbia, an in depth analysis of heavy metal music, and beautifully written inspirational stories the article that really stood out in my mind was "Roomates from Hell." Anyone who has ever had to endure a stranger for a roommate can relate to this witty rant. This is an all around terrific zine and was a real pleasure to read. [63S 1:00]—Nicole

•••Off-Line #17: The entire first half of this thick, wordy zine features two thoughtful, well-researched essays (with footnotes). Vincent confronts the responsibility of the U.S. in the Sept. 11 attacks. Claire investigates the many interpretations of "sustainable development." They question the hypocrisy of their love for heavy metal, while they outright condemn pornography for being "an industry run by men, revolving around male fantasies about women." This is a debate I would enjoy seeing them tackle. [64S 2:30]—Jaina

•••Off-Line #18: "Off-Line Goes To Canada!" As with a lot of zines I've seen of late, Off-Line's would-be balls-out intro ("creating a community of independent-minded people...

not afraid to be honest of controversial... defy authoritarianism") is rendered laughable by its content: an intermittently funny but rather bland travelogue, distinguished by the narrator's love of lefty bumper stickers and cheeseball metal. *Claire E. Cocco and Vincent J. Romano, 35 Barker Ave. #4G, White Plains NY 10601* ["Free, like all things should be," donations accepted 38S :14]—Emerson

One Week's Worth of Hate and Anger: "Shining rage" from a 20-something queer angry at punk protests that express themselves in booze, cyberspace, and subculture infighting. Hank's rude voice explodes through these short, handwritten essays, sometimes blunting my interest, sometimes slapping me in the mouth. Queer rockers particularly will want to check out Hank's plans for a Tallahassee music festival. *Hank Thigpen, PO Box 3411, Tallahassee FL 32315-3411, xeroxre vdistro@yahoo.com, www.geocities.com/xeroxre vdistro* [\$2 44S :25]—Susan

Only Chaos #0: In this slick, shticky, good-natured comic, "The On Campus Crusader," a fey Walter Mitty figure, is humiliated by his girlfriend (in reality) and beheaded by carnivorous zombies (in fantasy). The merciless barrage of yuks aims pretty low (the constant religious goofing is particularly toothless), but the clever, eye-poking art makes it worthwhile. Mr. Yan perhaps has his eye on a bigger fishbowl, and I wish him the best. *Stan Yan, c/o Squid Works, PO Box 480463, Denver CO 80248-0463, stanyan1@aol.com, www.squidworks.com* [\$3.95 ("Immature Adult Readers") 32M :18]—Emerson

oppress this fanzine #13: Reading a good perzine should be like meeting someone, and getting to know what they think and how they feel. This is a good perzine. Erin writes about her life in a skillful, engaging, honest, and heartfelt way. (This issue largely concerns her move from Cleveland to Los Angeles, but also contains general observations about friends, possible romantic issues, personal feelings, music, etc.) And she publishes the results in a low-tech but creative and reader-friendly way. Recommended. *erin schleckman, 221 Moorewood Ave., Avon Lake OH 44012, erin@girls.wirl.net, http://livejournal.com/users/oherin* [\$? 68XS :23]—Steve

Opuntia #46.5C: Judging by Dale's unusual indexing system, I discovered that this is the "perzine" issue of Opuntia, consisting of LOC's in classic form. Many letters concern the recent "World Wide Party," a global wave of zinesters toasting the small press world last June. Also, as Dale hails from Calgary, now in the middle of an oil and natural gas boom, we find some commentary on recent anti-petrole-

um protests. Plus, how he manages his huge library, and an account of a high-speed chase. [16S :25]—Michael

•••Opuntia #47: Articles on the heady days of the early Canadian and American postal system (ever wonder why you can't send children bulk rate anymore?), an assessment of a lecture on the future of science fiction writing by Robert Sawyer, and an abominably dry look at convention planning. A little bland all the way through, but if these topics make you giddy with excitement, this one might be for you. [16S :25]—eric

•••Opuntia #48: This is an intelligent, highly informative monthly by a real dyed-in-the-wool zine enthusiast, dedicated to discussing all things zine-y. This issue: "The History of Blotting Paper," an extensively researched and well-documented chronology of the development of this antiquated writer's aid, and how it is used today. Fascinating and clearly written, this article covers the use of blotting paper in espionage, science, and correspondence back to ancient times. A second article goes into detail about some of the noteworthy clashes between mail carriers and animals throughout history. (If you've ever heard a mail carrier griping about dogs on their route, tell 'em about what it was like back when postal wagons had to deal with attacks by lions!) Opuntia is an outstanding zine, filled with engaging, thoughtful, independent writing. [16S :30]—Violet

•••Opuntia #48.1A: Longtime zine publisher Dale Speirs is prolific and wonderful, and sort of the unofficial missing link between science fiction fandom and the rest of zinedom. He likes histories of fandom, and he's from Canada. I don't know much else about him but I think he rocks! And yes, from now on ZW/ARG reviews zine publishers, not zines. Uh, anyway, this issue features reviews, correspondence, mail art announcements, and zine listings. *Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta T2P 2E7 Canada* [\$3, or trade, or letter of comment 16S :20]—Wred

The Otis Complex: This zine reminds me of a guy I used to work with. He professed to be a Buddhist, and would lecture freely on the need to simplify, to destroy the ego, and promoting universality over the self — yet he was an obvious egotistical control freak. What is this non-fiction/fiction about? I read most of it, and I don't know. The obvious: It begins in Argentina and returns to San Francisco, in letters to a friend (giving similar mixed messages as my co-worker) and short tales of relationships — including the most ostentatious depiction of sex I've ever read (plus bad poetry). And I think, perhaps, the zine should be renamed *The Anal Complex*, for the anality of the writing and the author(s) blatant anal

fixation. 2966 24th St. #67, San Francisco CA 94110, theotiscomplex@hotmail.com [\$2 52M :30] -Jerianne

Patty Cakes 'n Golden Streams #1: Devoted to the "forbidden tastes" of scat and erotic piss play, Patty Cakes... will probably leave you smiling devilishly or retching deeply, depending on your disposition toward erotic play with human waste. This thin issue begins with a brief tribute to punk scat fetishist and performer G.G. Allin, leads into an interesting and elaborate run-down of the author's own forbidden feasts, and ends with a surprisingly dry story of incestuous scat and golden love. John Pirog, PO Box 92303, Warren MI 48092 [\$1 US, \$1.50 world, cash or stamps (age stmt) 8M :20] -eric

Pearshaped #4: The author is in Japan, and I just got back from there so I found this zine very interesting. There is a great article about feminism in Japan written by a Japanese woman, and an embarrassing story about getting past the language barrier at a most inopportune time. Other stories about her life in Japan and various show reports round it out. A fantastic zine worth giving a look. Mia Ellis, Yamamura Haitzu 203, San-no-machi 8-24, Tsuroku Yamagata Japan, 997-0028, meema@usa.net [\$1 40S :30] -Nicole

The Period Conspiracy: A must read for anyone who bleeds monthly. Did you know that the government considers tampons a luxury item? I didn't until I read this. You'll also find out how the tampon/pad industry is responsible for the way we view our periods, what dangers are associated with them, and more valuable info on the subject. It's free, so you have no excuse not to get it. Chlam Media Press, 2504 Ravencroft Ct, Va. Beach VA 23454, cooties@rocketmail.com, www.bluedesig.com/cooties [Free 8S :20] -Nicole

Persephone is Pissed #3: Despite the misleading political introduction to this one ("womyn everywhere are pissed!"), this is a pretty good - tho a tad over-dramatic - story of one womyn's hellish experience traveling with a(n ex-)friend to Vegas. It begins with an ominous road-killing, climaxes in an uncomfortable hotel-sharing adventure, and then returns to death and desolation in Oregon. A few extra pieces at the end give brief descriptions of 'magickal' stones and herbs, a home-protection spell, and an open hate letter to Eugene, Oregon. [:35] -eric ***SECOND OPINION: This zine created by a "womyn" includes one sex dream analyzed, a cautionary tale about a road trip with a guy who abused trust, an interview with a smart 4-year-old girl, a list of ostensibly magical attributes of herbs ("amaranth is said to heal a broken

heart"), and a rant about being dissed and blamed ("Fuck Eugene! I'm leaving this place...") Brownie points for its simply stitched binding. Quail, PO Box 11345, Eugene OR 97440, persephoneispissed@hotmail.com [\$2, or trades, free to prisoners 20S :11] -Chris

Pick Your Poison #1: Every couple of months I get a zine I know nothing about that restores my faith that there are always more great zines to come. This is in the teen punk-boy genre and is filled with tales of growing up, getting fucked up, and great descriptions of friends and neighbors and all their, often tragic, fates. Well written enough to totally recommend and with a great sense of humor. Nate Gangelhoff, PO Box 8995, Minneapolis MN 55408, pickyourpoison@beer.com [\$1 48S 1:00] -Gordon

Picking Up the Pieces #1: This is a really great zine. It's got two insightful interviews - one with members of a Food Not Bombs group discussing their troubles and triumphs, and another with the band Last Day On the Force that focuses a lot on their ideological views and how that relates to what they do with the band. Also, there's two how-to pieces on making flower pots out of records and how to pee standing up for girls. Plus a show diary that goes beyond the usual "This band ruled! That band sucked!" and actually discusses stories of assholes in the crowd, jerky venue owners, and such. Marie, 709 Alden St., Meadville PA 16335 [\$1 16S 1:30] -Kyle

Pigeon: Two short comics in what might be a one-shot issue. The first comic (by Ben Catmull) is reflective and introspective, drawn in a textured highly emotional style, with no need for words. The second one is a jam by Ben and Jesse Reklaw - a somewhat twisted but still light-hearted story with a slapstick kind of ending. A short read, but definitely worth a look. Ben Catmull, 4096 Piedmont Ave. #375, Oakland CA 94611-5112, ben@uncommonplace.com, paperheater.com, slowwave.com [\$ 22S :05] -Sean & Malinda

pipu series 2 #2: "pipu-ra vs. mecgae-evil-botizor." Pseudo-manga from Oakland that adopts and elegantly satirizes Japanese comic conventions, right down to simulated botched translations. Our monosyllabic hero organizes an effort to stop a vindictive robot. Jerry Brown appears on the scene. I'm hooked. Goblinko, PO Box 3635, Oakland CA 94609-0635, artlab@goblinko.com, www.goblinko.com [\$1, \$12 for 14 issues 38S :22] -Emerson

pisces zine #13: "My Words Mean Nothing, They Just What I'm Feelin'." A beautifully made zine (built-in bookmark and bookmark holder, semi-transparent cover, and ribbon

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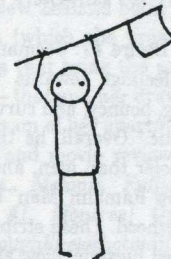
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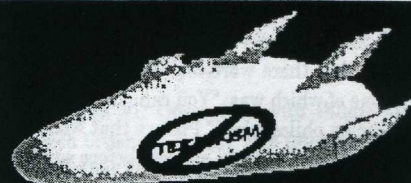


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binding with a ruby colored glass stone attached – with unbelievably tiny print that tells about the author's struggles for a normal life. "I've seen a lot through my parents' differences which enable me to see life today, as both a spoiled Jewish American Princess and a little poor Black girl." It's very passionate and cathartic writing. 369 So. Doheny Dr. #106, Beverly Hills CA 90211, ILovePisces.com [\$2, no zine trades please, "BUT we can trade for OTHER items. Here is a list: vintage ribbon & lace, stickers, crafty books, 'Fragile' labels I can stick on packages, sharpie markers, pinky shears, silk flowers, Mrs. Piggle Wiggle books, mini glue stics, shrink wrap paper, rhinestones, un-used dildos and black stretchy hair rubber bands from SCUNCI." 22S :25] –Tom

Plaid Rabbit #29: The blurb on the cover reads "poetry-hiphop-graffiti-justice," and that about covers it. An intensely political zine that contains poetry (some in Spanish), other writings, photos of graffiti, and cut-and-rearranged newspaper headlines. (Some of the writings are by prisoners; I especially liked an essay on prison conditions by Marilyn Buck.) Nothing spectacularly original or provocative here, but it's heartfelt and well done. *Plaid Rabbit*, PO Box 16651, St. Paul MN 55116, plaidrabbit651@aol.com, www.geocities.com/plaidrabbitmag [\$1 32S :08] –Steve

Planet Named Desire #7: Joeman does comic strips on his feelings towards women, (He draws them "big, bouncy, and curvy, but that's just my aesthetic." Overall, he thinks they're smarter and cooler than men, and I certainly agree.), his "Slow Ramblin' Man" lifestyle, and his recent fatherhood. These strips are kind of like his professed lifestyle, slow and rambling, not to mention intensely personal to an almost navel-gazing extent. But I liked them. There's a most refreshing guilelessness and gentleness about this work; both the observations about life and drawing style are charming. Don't expect flash or big laughs or anything like that, but I recommend this. *Planet Named Desire*, Joe Marshall, PO Box 40321, Tucson AZ 85717-0321, joeman66@hotmail.com [\$2 (age stmt) 16S :06] –Steve

Pop Boffin #4: This is a zine of Vancouver pop culture with articles on the arts, travel, celebrities, the internet, "Are You a Yuppie" quiz, etc. with color cover, lots of photos, and light trendy/gossipy reading throughout. I enjoyed that there were four ways to read the zine, one of which was: "You can choose to read the zine by philosopher!" Prefers that would-be buyers email to confirm address before sending in their order. *Lara Jenny*, #4-2017 West 15th Ave., Vancouver BC V6J 2L4, Canada www.we

bspotter.com/popboffin [\$3 Canadian or US, or £1.50, "Foreign types should stuff some of their worthless roubles into an envelope marked for our attention." 28M :36] –Tom

Processed World #2.001: PW is back and bigger than ever after a seven-year absence. Subtitled "The Greatest Speedup in Human History," PW 2.001 looks at how much the modern workplace has changed in a short time and also touches on many other important political issues in this thick, book-like zine. This issue has well-written and detailed articles about such varied topics as intellectual property, the destruction of independent thought at universities, "The Great Bicycle Protest of 1896," space wars and gentrification in San Francisco, as well as many "tales of toil" from the workplace, fiction, and an interview with the designers and painters of a local mural. Two articles stand out among the many good ones in this issue and are worth the price of this zine alone. "Farce or Flegla? The Promise of Leisure in the Computer Age" explores the way in which the "new economy" and computers, despite originally promising to liberate workers from drudgery and shorten the workweek, have, in fact, had the opposite effect. The other is Chris Carlsson's "Radical Politics: Assuming We Refuse, Let's Refuse to Assume." Carlsson starts by asking the whether the Seattle anti-WTO protests were really a "breakthrough" for anti-capitalist politics and then goes on to examine the strategies and organization of protest groups themselves in order to facilitate more effective resistance and a better future. PW is a great political zine. Highly recommended despite the price. 41 Sutter Street #1829, San Francisco CA 94104, processedworld@yahoo.com [\$10 112M 3:30] –Gordon

Psycho #1 Fan! The guy who does this used to do a zine called *Puberty Strike* and according to the intro, this zine picks up where that left off. Essentially this zine is about kitschy pop culture and obsessing over it. This issue contains a contest between the "5 Trashiest Girls in the USA;" reviews of records put out by Donny Osmond, Tony DeFranco, New Edition, Coomers, Michael Jackson, and Little Jimmy Osmond; a quiz to rate "What kind of fan are you?;" a timeline of the author's childhood homosexual experiences; funny little pictures of Gary Coleman scattered throughout; and even a centerfold of Donny Osmond! After reading this I've learned that I'm definitely not a psycho #1 fan by any means, but I'm still at least mildly amused and slightly humored by it all. PO Box 143, Tucson AZ 85702 or PO Box 12125, Berkeley CA 94712, sodapopseth@hotmail.com [\$2 28L 1:00] –Kyle

Punkanot #2: The freight train hoppin'est, border crossin'est, hitchhikin'est zine I know, the second issue of *Punkanot* reports on a 1998 trip from Texas to Toronto and back to attend the Active Resistance conference. It's handsomely produced, cleanly designed, easy to read, nicely written, and a little philosophical. Above average. *Wylie Punkanot*, PO Box 540304, Houston TX 77254-0304, punkanot@yahoo.com [\$2, \$3 Canada/Mexico, \$3.50 other; 68S :45] –Chris

Quantify 2: "Part Vs. Whole." This is a zine of passionate smart rants such as: "In July I attended two events that were supposed to be safe spaces for women of color, but neither were safe for me: I left the first event early because its overwhelmingly Christian atmosphere was not 'safe' for my Jewish self, and at the second, I felt unsafe and attacked for being queer and mixed-race. I wrote to Christina: 'where's my safe space? Where's my fuckin' mixed-race queer Jewish gal caucus?' I began to realize that in order for a space to be truly safe, everyone would have to occupy the exact same social locations, which, I would argue, is impossible." Plus zine reviews and a recommended book list. *Xolau 122 Harvard Ave., Staten Island NY 10301*, ymawl@yahoo.com [\$2 52XS :40] –Tom

Queenzine #2: For a small zine, this contains lots of content, mostly consisting of articles on a unified theme – reflections on various places the editor has lived. Raina seems very aware of herself and her surroundings, offering many observations on friends, family, and culture. Includes reviews of mainly Asian American zines and comics. Photos and collages are scattered throughout the cut-and-paste format, which only fails on a few pages where the text is cut off. A deceptively simple zine that ended up providing a lot of interesting diverse reading. Recommended. *Raina Lee*, 6727 Alta Vista Dr., Rancho Palos Verdes CA 90275, djraina@lycos.com, <http://queenzine.homestead.com> [\$2 US/Canada/Mexico, \$3 world, or trade 44XS :30] –Sean & Malinda

Race Traitor #13/14: A whopping double-issue featuring the suppressed surrealist issue of *Socialist Review*. I often found myself thinking of people who might enjoy a copy of this mammoth piece of scholarship while I read it, as it touches on many important subjects: race, art, labor, gentrification, radicalism, and more. Also, regrettably, I found myself puzzling over some of the more pedantic entries, barely resisting the urge to throw it across the room every time I read of a "paradigm" or "matrix." Still, Ron Sakolsky has done a commendable job here of stressing that surrealism is not just a style or a dead and embalmed art movement,

but was born and bred – and survives – at the “point where art and revolution intersect.” *The New Abolitionists*, PO Box 499, Dorchester MA 02122, www.postfun.com/racetrailor [\$12 260S hours and hours] –Michael

Rat Blood Soup #6: I liked this zine and recommend it with a few caveats. The longer pieces (“Temp Gig,” “In Defense of Cover Bands”) are especially good and worth the price. Unfortunately, you also have to put up with a stupid, unfunny, or offensive (depending on your sensibility) clunker of a sentence or graphic on every couple of pages. Will, it’s just not funny. More articles and less “humor,” please. This zine (which used to be called *Willzine*) also includes articles on how much a car really costs, barber stories, and interactions with strangers. *Will McNaull*, 6359 Lancaster Ave, Philadelphia PA 19151-2622, willzine@aol.com [\$2 40S :20] –Gordon

Recluse Zine #2: With material about animal welfare, toxic chemicals in personal care products, a TV show presenting evidence that the 1969 lunar landing was a hoax, and proposed Ohio legislation against “abortion pill” RU-486, as well as short reviews of six films and six zines, why didn’t I like this more than I did? I hope the next edition has more concise and careful editing, leaving some dross on the cutting room floor. [36S :16] –Chris

•••**Recluse Zine #4:** A friendly-enough hodgepodge of useful information, topical opinions, and so-so poetry. This issue had a very good and lengthy how-to article on screenprinting, probably the best I’ve ever seen in zinedom. It also contained several columns discussing patriotism post-9/11, a nightmarish cat sanctuary, and a messy divorce. Written by a group of friends having fun, I can’t fault *Recluse* for effort, but it might benefit from more cohesion or editorial direction. *Jill Herbst*, PO Box 09558, Columbus OH 43209, info@reclusezine.com, www.reclusezine.com [\$1.25, or trade 36S :30] –Suzanne

The Red Penn (Winter 2001): This newsletter of the Socialist Party of Philadelphia has pretty much no substance to it. Its scant four pages are made up of a form to join the socialist party, a form to order a book about democratic socialism, three letters from readers, and a short piece about the need for electoral reform. Bland and empty – I wouldn’t recommend this to anyone. *Socialist Party of Greater Philadelphia*, 7393 Rugby St, Philadelphia PA 19138-1236, caimans@yahoo.com [free 4L :05] –Kyle

Reddog Review #3: “...fragments and unfinished things...” Described as a “now or never thing as it’s been about two years since my last publication,” what it lacks as a satisfying

whole is more than made up for in the quality of the edgy, interesting writing. The poems contain imagery that actually seems observed, not imagined, and voice an actual point of view. The few excerpts of stories and scripts suggest a unique female perspective on the normally male domain of boogers and grossness. *Asha Anderson*, PO Box 8739, Medford OR 97501, reddog@ashabot.com, www.ashabot.com [\$2 cash or stamps, or trade 24S :12] –Suzanne

Reglar Wiglar #15: A chunky selection of comics from Hans Rickheit, Jesse Reklaw, and Bill Driscoll made me wish this zine would ditch its bland mix of features and focus exclusively on comic art. Instead, we get too much puffery about the indie music biz, a clipped and uncomfortable interview with cartoonist Dan Clowes, and an incongruous spike of high-quality writing reprinted from Julie Halpren’s zine *Get Well Soon*. Disinterested and flat, the fizz is out of this formula. *Chris Auman*, PO Box 578174, Chicago IL 60657, wiglar@mac.com, home.earthlink.net/~wiglar [\$2, \$3 Canada/Mexico, \$4 world, or trade 50M 1:25] –Susan

Retail Whore #3: You know how some perzines become more frustrating when the person doing them can actually write? Katherine is indeed a good writer, and I enjoyed some stuff here, like a look back at first kisses and, of all things, a treatise on urinary tract infections. But other times, her reflections on life in the wonderful world of retail seem a bit, well, generic. More disappointingly, the zine lacks focus, and even more disappointingly, the graphic design seems deliberately junky. She brags on the first page that this zine is “computer-free,” but, you know, plenty of computer-free zines are actually reader-friendly. A really good zine seems well within her grasp, but this isn’t quite it. [\$2 40S :20] –Steve

•••**Retail Whore #4:** Not so much a work zine as a marvelously complex narrative describing the “epic feeling” that leads a girl to take hallucinogenic drugs with her friends and tell her story loudly on a train. What’s her story about? Often, relationships: Katherine is fucking yet another guy whose name begins with a “J,” but... but the details of Katherine’s story don’t really tell her story at all. If you like drugs, naked boobies, and grandiose women, get this. *Katherine Raz*, 5741 N. Ridge #3NE, Chicago IL 60660, retailwho_re@hotmail.com [\$2 44S 1:30] –Susan

Rock N Roll Purgatory #3: Your basic fanzine with the basic ingredients: interviews, record reviews, live reviews, etc. Instead of garden variety punk bands, though, this zine focuses

on rockabilly and “psychobilly” (rockabilly combined with punk and metal) bands, with a bit of punk, blues, etc. thrown in. The zine is nicely done. As a person who’s been rather too steeped in punk rock nostalgia recently, I found most interesting an interview with Phester Swollen of The Rotters, who were responsible for the classic bit of punk outrage “Sit On My Face Stevie Nicks.” Ah, memories. [\$2 52S :33] –Steve

•••**Rock N Roll Purgatory #4:** This zine focuses on bands that play music that fall somewhere in the categories or “psychobilly, punk, rockabilly, surf, oil, rock-n-roll, etc.” You know, the type of music that’s supposed to make you want to throw on your leather jacket, grease up your hair, and hop on your motorcycle or classic car from the 50’s. This issue has interviews with bands The Krewmen, Sixer (who apparently are from Richmond, which is where I’ve lived for a year, but I’ve never heard of them), The Rotters, Rocket 350, Main Street Saints, American Upstart, Cave Catt Sammy, and even a dominatrix and fetish model named Mistress Persephone. 342 S. Walnut St., Wooster OH 44691, rocknrollpurgatory@yahoo.com, www.geocities.com/lmd76 [\$? 52M 1:30] –Kyle

Rough Lines #7 (Summer 2001): Nice looking perzine about a woman who was transplanted from her New Zealand home (which she loved) to Canada (which she grows to accept). The diary parts that bring the reader into her life were best – that and her drawings. My favorite was a diagram of her apartment. Also included were zine and movie reviews, a quiz, poetry, and rants. *Melanie Fullick* 4520 Avenue Coloniale #1, Montreal Quebec H2T 1W2, Canada, roughlines@hotmail.com [\$2.50 Canadian, \$3.50 US 55S :45] –Tom

Sanitary Birth/Unkempt Death: Wow, this zine is really powerful. Beyond the couple paragraphs of the intro this zine is completely made up of collages that are meant to portray “the existence of war, the fighting of it, the public support of it, the industry behind it, the manipulation of the public to fight wars.” These images of death and destruction are gritty and disturbing, but not in a morbid way. It’s just really shocking to be confronted with these images and to know that they are real, and the aesthetic presentation of them only heightens the intensity of it all. 1920 Abrams Park Way #351, Dallas TX 75214 [\$1 or 3 stamps 16L :02] –Kyle

Satsuma #1: Obsessions with thumb sucking, teeth brushing, people who faint for no reason, and other stories of strange lives fill this clean looking zine. The writers clearly express their emotions, odd habits, and tales in such a

manner that it wouldn't matter if they were talking about tooth picks, you'd still want to read it. If they keep it up in the next issue, this is one zine that I hope sticks around. *Chris Genua, 502 Prospect Ave., Flr. 3, Brooklyn NY 11215, satsuma_zine@hotmail.com, www.yobobara.com* [\$7 for 4 issues 43S :30] -Nicole

Schadenfreude #1: "The Straight(edge) Years." If Enid from Ghost World did a perzine, it would probably be a lot like this. This emo queer girl can't spell, but she sure can write. Stories about making fun of boys in public, going to hardcore and emo shows, tranny boys in private, going to a cemetery, and falling in love. Has cut and paste art. A decent read. *Xerox Revolutionaries, PO Box 3411, Tallahassee FL 32315-3411* [\$? 16S :15] -Wred

Scout #4: This zine is nicely packaged, neatly laid out, grammatical, and understandable. Unfortunately it's also vapid. I wasn't interested to read about eponymous Scout's growing appreciation for Madonna, see the content of her husband Zip's old coat pocket, or learn that Scout is 5'4", likes tofu, and hates to drive. Maybe it's for you, though, if you go for personal zines, Tom Robbins, and travel accounts. One highlight: the autobiographical comic "Scout's Life." *PO Box 48522, Sarasota FL 34230-0522, scout@liquidbutter.com, scout.liquidbutter.com* [\$1 32S :08] -Chris

Scrollworks #15: "The Journal of Scrollworks Press." If the statement "Environment plays a key role in a character's ability to perform this skill and is not accounted for in the PHB or DMG" means anything to you, this zine is calling your name. The charts, character descriptions and stats, sample spell, and short topical fiction probably would have caught my interest if I were a D&Der. *Scrollworks Press, PO Box 983, San Jacinto CA 92581, questions@scrollworkspress.com, www.scrollworkspress.com* [\$1.50 24S :03] -Jerianne

Second Guess #16 (Summer/Fall 2001): This is a very serious (hardly light reading) collection of articles on vegetarianism, punk rock, education, etc. - a wide-ranging medley for sure. Of the eight articles, my favorites were those on vegetarianism that brought out a lot of points that I have never heard before. Specifically how vegetarianism affects or doesn't affect the world around us. Both vegetarians and non-vegetarians will find it smart and balanced. Ex.: "For me, to make eating a carrot more virtuous than eating a trout is just a form of ethnocentrism. It suggests that creatures that resemble us are more precious than creatures that don't," Daniel Quinn. [:45] -Tom
•••**SECOND OPINION:** A very interesting and educational zine that explores the different points and counterpoints of vegetar-

ianism, explains about animism, and discusses the aspects of family systems and cultural systems. The only problem is that it lacks personality. It reads very much like a term paper, albeit a paper worthy of an A. If you want to learn about these subjects, check it out. If you want entertainment, look elsewhere. *Bob Conrad PO Box 9382 Reno, NV 89507, www.secondguess.net* [\$3.50 US, \$4 Canada/Mexico, \$5 elsewhere 63S :45] -Nicole

The Secret Life of Snakes #1: With a clean, simple layout and solid, interesting writing, Cullen creates an enjoyable collection of stories about his life as a father, husband, and expunker. Yes, this is a zine of personal writings, but unlike many perzines, the author doesn't craft something only of interest to those who know him personally. The common theme running through these tales is change, and anyone should be able to relate to these stories. *Cullen Carter, PO Box 773, Appleton WI 54912-0773, carter@appletonnet.com* [\$2 US, \$3 Canada 24S :30] -John

SENS #1: From the barely legible graffiti masthead to the final lovingly reproduced photo of Che Guevara, this may be the most philosophically confused zine I've ever seen. Ostensibly an 'anarchist' zine written by prisoners, the illiterate essays are littered with outdated, macho, leftist language and bellicose revolutionary pose of an intellectually stunted apparatchik, pumping his fist in the air and howling about "the masses" and "the oppressors" (sic) and "the working class" and "capital." One essay exhorts the reader to resist coercion, then cries "resistance is mandatory." Other rants equate anarchism with simple nonconformity, offer praise for violence ("all the peaceful activism needs a violent improvement") or primitivism ("civilization... has to go") or stealing ("we support... theft"). When the authors want to stress their points, they generalize and curse: "This shit all revolves around capital, and the greedy fucks who care about nothing else." White knight, testosterone-soaked passages reduce radicalism to being a superhero with a circle-a slapped on the chest: "For me, being an anarchist goes hand in hand with being an eco-warrior and defender of the exploited." Worst of all, the one glimmer of light is an essay from Fred Woodworth, who has decried dreck like this consistently. *S. Chicago ABC Zine Distro, PO Box 721, Homewood IL 60430* [\$? 24S :36] -Michael

SharZayne #1: Billed as a variety zine, SharZayne has a couple of music reviews of "obnoxious little boy bands" who I'd never heard of, lots of poetry that was neither sentimental nor pretentious, some micro-fiction (one paragraph only!), and a gross cartoon

that you'll only appreciate if you hate the Grateful Dead as much as I do. I would have liked more writing by the music reviewer (Stasia Collins) and the editor (Teresa Turner) because I liked their writing the best, but some of the poetry was surprisingly affecting also. It's a first issue and I can see this zine getting really good over time. *Teresa Turner, PO Box 2401, Porterville CA 93258, teaflora@aol.com, www.visaseptic.com* [\$2, or trade (age stmt) 22S :15] -Gordon

Shenandoah Newsletter v28#4 (July 2001): This monthly newsletter for Native American peoples across the continent is filled with a motley assortment of fables, announcements, reviews of titles about Native Americans, letters, and pieces from the history of various tribes and territories. Much of the newsletter is devoted to reprints of early European explorers' sometimes arrogant and racist, sometimes fascinated writing to the societies they found among Native American tribes, as well as the natives' responses. The only drawback to this otherwise interesting collection is the low-quality printing job, which makes it so most of the print finds its way off the page and onto your fingers. [21M :30] -eric
•••**Shenandoah Newsletter v28#5:** If you're willing to take the time to extract information from this newsletter, and are at all interested in Native American affairs or history, please consider. This isn't an easy read, I warn you. For example, selected items from two pages include, in typewritten columns: historical research, the court of the Miss Oneida pageant, a news brief on casinos in New York; news briefs, information on other Indian newsletters, upcoming events in Arizona, and the commands "You must protect Mother Earth" and "Buy Land. We Need Land." *736 West Oklahoma Street, Appleton WI 54914* [[\$1.75, \$17.50 full year subscription, \$30 per year foreign, cash, check or money order to Shenandoah Newsletter 22M :30] -Jerianne

Short Fuse #82: "The form of the zine adapts to the requirements of the pieces included." Um, OK. What we've got here is two large sheets folded around a smaller sheet (the page count listed below is an approximation) with a color photograph of a few random items thrown in for good measure. On the folded pages, there are various poems, short prose pieces, and drawings from many different contributors, none of which I found terribly interesting. If they've done 82 issues, they probably have an idea of what they're doing here, but it's lost on me. *PO Box 90436, Santa Barbara CA 93190-0436* [\$1/free to prisoners, \$9 per year 20S :10] -Steve

Signatures From Big Sky 2001 #11: From the back page info sheet: "Signatures from Big Sky

seeks to nurture a community of young Montana artists (K-12) and provide them with opportunities to both strengthen and share their talents in art and writing." The artwork (some color) was fresh, mostly unpolished, and occasionally strikingly original. The writing, mostly poems, didn't seem as worthy. But I salute the backers and would encourage every state to spotlight their children's artwork. A great idea with a wide selection of youngster art and writing. 928 4th Ave., Laurel MT 59044 [\$5 100M :60] -Tom

Slug & Lettuce #68: S&L completely deserves the reputation it has. You can't go wrong looking to its zine, book, and music reviews for guidance. The columns are also top-notch, from helpful (instructions on home-brewed herbal beverages and self-administering treatments for vaginal problems you might encounter) to touching (Christine's introductory piece on standing at the brink of a nervous breakdown, finding balance in life, and facing the loss of loved ones). Get it. PO Box 26632, Richmond VA 23261-6632 [57¢ postage US, \$1 Canada/Mexico, \$2 overseas, checks to Chris Boarts Larson (only for \$10 or more) 20L 1:30] -Jerianne

Smeared with Pleasure: Bert threads a disturbing vision of sexual violence through this scum-soaked zine, interlacing crude drawings of oozing penises with maniacal caricatures of ecstatic and groping baseball players. A short story about two guys in a mental ward - one trying hard to lose himself in Wheel of Fortune, the other excitedly questioning him about his female visitors - adds essential perspective to the creeped-out artwork and rescues the zine from wallowing in its own filth. Well-done, but very, very slimy. Bert Bergen, 53A Pearl St., San Francisco CA 94103, mplamster@hotmail.com[\$? 22S :10] -Susan

Snackbar Confidential #7: "The Best of Our First Five Years." Humorous critiques of obscure products from the 1960s and 1970s are neatly laid out alongside advertising from the same era. According to the editor, this is the yearly "best of" issue, but we're not sure how it differs from regular issues. Although this probably took a lot of work, there isn't much written material in here. As a result, we thought \$3 was kind of a high cover price, although diehard pop culture fans might want to indulge. [\$3 cash, or trade 19S :15] -Sean & Malinda

*****Snackbar Confidential #38:** This zine has been around a long time yet it's still hasn't passed its expiration date (couldn't resist). It's almost entirely old ads for odd snacks - ex. old Kool-Aid covers (and offbeat movies and records). Pop culture, mostly from the '70's, at its worst/best. Recommended and now they've got a Snackbar CD! PO Box 895, Saratoga Springs NY 12866, korg5@mac.com [\$3 cash 20S :15] -Tom

Soft Smooth Brain #3: Another collection of blood-splattered, surreal sort of anti-comix. No begin-



OUR VOLUNTEERS

Here's a handy list of who to hate. Or, if you actually *like* ZW/ARG, why not support our volunteers by checking out their zines?

Chris likes cookies, cold weather, films with subtitles, and long walks in the wilderness - and is every bit as reclusive as might be expected. Write to Chris c/o Zine World.

Dan Morey is an enormously wealthy man-child whose emotional development was stunted at an early age when his mother left him for a more agreeable baby. A housebound semi-invalid, Dan enjoys medieval theology, tinkering with cross-species fertilization in his laboratory, and Newhart. At night he dictates pornographic vampire novels to his Bulgarian nursemaid. Write to him at Zine World headquarters.

Emerson Dameron lives in Athens, GA, though his seeds are scattered everywhere. Contact him at omnivore@starplace.com or 150 Morningside Dr. #2, Athens GA 30605. Keep your eyes on the prize and your hose on the roses.

eric zass - From impassioned lead-man for Latino pop-rockers Menudo to notorious child pornographer and Billy Idol collector's item fetishist, eric zass has lived a life we can all look on with envy and mild disgust. Recently he's been languishing in the dark and pungent cell of his room, chattering incoherently to the colony of cockroaches who co-inhabit his space and sporadically publishing his (and others') ravings under the obscure 'kyezine internationale' imprint. You'll only regret contacting him at kyezine@yahoo.com or c/o Zine World.

Gordon Zola fell in love with zines at first sight in the early '80s after being handed some photocopied political rag with lots of punk rock lyrics while walking through Berkeley minding his own business. He worked on an anarchist/anti-authoritarian/activist collective zine in upstate NY called Outrage from 1986-89 then bought zines for the late Epicenter Zone until 1996. Epi-logue: The Zine of Epicenter Zone's Demise, an analysis of the structural problems and some good memories of Epicenter, is available from him for \$1. Gordon can be reached c/o Zine World or at garzola@yahoo.com.

Jacque Rowden - With my partner/nemesis, P., I publish Our Two Cents, ostensibly a movie review zine that does indeed discuss movies, but uses them more as an analytical springboard into the wider pool of who we are and how we live today. I'm a readaholic - books, zines, product labels - and don't like to waste my valuable eyeball time on dreck, so hope to save you from same. Nab a sample OTC for a buck, to 2212 Shady Ave., Pittsburgh PA 15217. See some OTC at www.ourtwocents.com, and drop me a line at ourtwocents@mindspring.com.

Jaina A. Davis retired her tiara when she stopped publishing Flatter! The Journal of Oblate Puffery. Zine World reinvigorated her enthusiasm for whiling away precious moments with inscrutable periodicals. Don't call it a comeback! Contact her via Zine World.

Jay Koivu - I'm taking a bit of a break from Zine World for a while. I need to concentrate on my own zine and other assorted writing projects. So this will be the last issue in which you'll be subjected to my tired excuse for reviews. However, if you enjoy schlock, give my personal zine a try. It's a daily journal

MORE

nings, few endings. But some really great illustrations and an anarchic sketchbook smorgasbord of inked images and ideas. Recommended. *Grass Hut Corp., Bwana Spoons, PO Box 6645, Portland OR 97228, spoons@prodigy.net, www.growab.com* [\$3 40S :30] -eric

Some Hope and Some Despair #3: This is a smattering of interviews Lance has conducted for a larger project he's working on: a book about the anarcho punk scene of the late '70s and '80s. While he says the interviews were originally used for quotes for individual chapters, the interviews are interesting by themselves. Includes: Action Time, The Cravats, Flowers in the Dustbin; plus other interviews unrelated to the project, and insightful record/movie reviews. The disappointment of this in is the lack of personal writing by this J Church frontman and very competent writer. *Lance/Honey Bear Records, 1071 Clayton Lane #506, Austin TX 78723* [32L :55] -John

Sore #12: It's a lit-zine with a punk-zine look and feel, if you can imagine that. The authors are young - no stilted writing here - and the few blemishes (clumsy words, lack of economy) are excusable. The short "Night Drive" is the best piece; its compelling urgency is exposed by short sentences and indirect subjects. Plus music reviews (8 pages) and zine reviews (3 pages). Seeking submissions. *PO Box 68711, Virginia Beach VA 23471, sorezine@aol.com, members.aol.com/basspro14* [\$1, \$5 for 3, check or money order to Taylor Ball 40M :17] -Jerianne

Space Car Junkie #6: The last issue of a comic series. This silly attempt to parody sci-fi adventure provides light entertainment. Sketchy art and distracting non-sequiturs belie Liesenfeld's wonderful talent, which is revealed in a minimalistic vignette about hibernating, urinating squirrels. It sorta reminds me of Elizabeth Watsins's A-Girl. Keep an eye on this artist. *Micah Liesenfeld, PO Box 1731, St. Charles MO 63302, micahnova@aussiefax.com, www.aussiefax.com*

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[\$3 or trade 44S :20] -Jaina

space for machines #2: A personal essay that reads like an academic paper, sfm seeks to explore geography (inner and outer) in humorless, uneven prose that oscillates between colloquial ("freaking out"), dreamy ("were you there my muse?"), and painfully strained ("subsumed by the curve of a circle or the angle of some argoglyph"). Includes photography and David Lynch film stills. Not very much fun, and borderline pretentious - but if you find deep meaning in Radiohead songs or voluntarily sat through *Lost Highway*, this just might be your bag. *Dave, PO Box 635, Urbana IL 61803, marshall52790@lycos.com, www.spaceformachines.org* [\$3, or trade, free to prisoners 20S :25] -Dan

St. Cosmo, I Come To Adore You #2: This is a litzine containing three short stories and one poem. The poem didn't do much for me, but the short stories all were pretty good: one about a guy who is attracted to a dirty, stinky, ugly former prostitute because she represents the depravity in his life, another about a guy's troubled relationship with his exotic dancer girlfriend, and another about a man who has just gotten out of prison and a few strange occurrences that happen to him in a public restroom. *Jacob Snodgrass, 3714 Dexter Row, Columbus OH 43221* [\$1+stamps or trade 48S :45] -Kyle

Star Thirty-eight: This paper-wasting collection of short stories and letters is copyrighted 2001 - as if someone might steal and sell them. Who might like these? Perhaps people interested in MUDs ("Multi-User Dungeons, a sort of virtual reality"), the topic of one of the stories. Five pages blank except for header and footer. Use the space to write your own. *William P. Tandy, Eightstone Press, PO Box 963, Havre De Grace MD 21078* [\$2, or trade 36S :04] -Chris

Stop the Clock! "Critiques of the New Social Workhouse." I really wanted to read this, and I sure did try. This is a thick pamphlet put together by four workers'-movement groups in four European countries, and the gist of their message is that most worker-based agitations are hijacked by tricky concessions and placating maneuvers, usually at the hands of the bureaucrat-infested unions paid to protect their interests. It all seems rather intense and thoughtful from what I could absorb, but I just couldn't stay focused for long because it's filled with passages like this: "Behind the expertly agitated scarecrow of a May '98 of the 'excluded' - very unlikely in these conditions - bosses exorcise concerns provoked by the fragmentation of a social body crossed by successive cries of growing gravity and gener-

ally weak economic upturns." Say what? I'll admit that the above sentence is taken a bit out of context, but believe me when I say that the context isn't much help either. Sigh... Another excellent collection of ideas sabotaged by overindulgence in "revolutionary" jargon and abstracted verbiage. *Aufheben, Brighton & Hove Unemployed Workers. Centre, 4 Crestway Parade, Hollingdean, Brighton BN1 7B1, UK; or Mouvement Communiste, BP 1666, Centre Monnaie, 1000 Bruxelles 1, Belgium; or Nati, PR c/o Diego Negri, CP 640, 40124 Bologna, Italy; or Wildcat, c/o Shiraz e.V., Pf 30 12 06, D-50782 Koln, Germany, aufheben99@yahoo.co.uk* [\$? (listed at £2 British) 76M :60] -Violet

Stovepipe v7#1 (Spring 2001): Belying it's subtitle, "A journal of little literary value," this issue of *Stovepipe* contains a good prose poem by Kristen Roach about what you eat (and don't) when you're not in love, as well as six right and true lines about the significance of a dog splashing in a stream and a rhyming poem that doesn't suck. Otherwise its Bukowski-influenced writings aren't so good, but do encourage readers to think they can do it themselves. [32S :10] -Chris

... **Stovepipe v7#2:** "a journal of little literary value." I actually studied writing as a graduate student in Montana, so I recognized the influence that alcohol and horniness had on the content of this issue. That's not to say it was bad, just typical of the genre, so if you're into first-person guy verse and neo-Bukowskiesque prose, this might be for you. Maybe it only seemed like women played a largely objectified role throughout the varied authors' works... a couple of gals were also contributors. *Sweet Lady Moon Press, PO Box 1076, Georgetown KY 40324, troyteegarden@worldradio.org, www.wrvg-fm.org/poets.html* [\$3 US, \$3.50 Canada/Mexico, \$4.50 elsewhere or trade, \$10 year US, \$16 foreign 36S :20] - Suzanne

Struggle v17#1: "A Magazine of Proletarian Revolutionary Literature." Poems, prose, and short stories that have a decidedly Marxist and, in many cases heavily dogmatic, overtone. The best ones in here, including Isaksson's "Northeast Direct" and Shorley's "Interview," approach their politics through personal experience. The worst read like browbeating windbag lectures on revolutionary politics severed into stanzas. Tim Hall gives an exhaustive listing of books that do and don't fit into the rigidly defined revolutionary canon. *PO Box 13261, Detroit MI 48213-0261, timhall11@yahoo.com, www.strugglemagazine.com* [\$2, \$18/ 6 issues 36S :30] -eric

Stuff #14: At first flip, this review and zine

distro offering looks promising: clean black-and-white printing with smart half-tones, quality reproductions of zine covers, and a few excerpts from comics featured herein. Upon reading the reviews, one senses something horribly wrong: The reviews are vague, poorly written, barely proof-read, and it seems every zine is nice, odd, very unique, interesting, deep, weird, quite unique, intriguing, creative, or entertaining. This merely terrible copy becomes offensive when it engages in pushy sales talk, urging you to buy from them to add to your "collection." (What is this, Franklin Mint?) *Paul Houston, 3811 NE 7th Ave., Portland OR 97212, stuffph@hotmail.com* [\$2, \$9 for 6 26M :28] -Michael

Stupider Comics #28: A man munching a cannonball and the title reads "Cannonballism". If you'd like 12 more cartoons like that... *Michael Goetz, 2124 Arizona Ave., Rockford IL 61108* [25¢+stamp, or trade 16XS :03] -Tom

Sunshine From Darkness #1: This colorful zine is basically a journal of random thoughts. It's like looking into someone's mind when they are having one of those deep philosophical moments, yet the only thing they can ponder on is their cat. Some of the thoughts are interesting, leaving you with a "yeah, I've felt that way" feeling. If you like to read other people's journals, you'll like this. If you're looking for a variety of content though, look elsewhere. *Daniel Scarangella, Box 821, Valley Stream NY 11582* [\$? 28M :20] -Nicole

Super Comics Blast #1: Talk about a crossover! El Muerto, the Aztec Zombie, goes manga and teams up with super-sized super robot Skeletron. But to save Japan's two preeminent robotic scientists, they'll need the help of Skyman, Fusion Android. The tale pays homage to those 'giant monsters destroying Tokyo' comics, with a Mexican flair; it delivers! Ted Seko and Javier Hernandez should team up more often. *Los Comex, PO Box 718, Whittier CA 90608-0718, azteczombie@yahoo.com* [\$? 36M plus 16XS :30] -Jerianne

Sur del Horror de la Frontera #1: "South of the Border Horror" is what the title translates to and this zine is just reprints of lobby posters from Mexican horror films. They're kinda cool, graphic, and gory but bad black and white xeroxing may not be the way to go for such a visual zine. (Actually, visit the website to get much better images!) *Brian Johnson, 11 Werner Rd., Greenville PA 16125-9434, glorystomper@webtv.net, www.angelfire.com/ak5/hipcar/frontera.html* [\$1 US, \$2 world, or trade 16S :05] -Gordon

Survivor Newsletter v12#6: For the most part, this issue is an anthology of articles and snippets from various other locations. There are some very useful tips, such as money-saving ideas, ways to avoid getting scammed, and so on. There are also several pages of paragraph-long articles called The Armed

about living in Hollywood called *Mr. Peebody's Soiled Trousers and Other Delights*. Send \$2 (\$3 for international) to me at *PO Box 931333, LA CA 90093*.

Jerianne sporadically does a perzine called *Rejected Band Names*. She is well aware of how long it has been since her last issue, and she'll be happy to feed you an excuse as to why she hasn't done a new one lately, if you want. (But don't give up on her; she hasn't retired from perzining yet.) She is one of only three people in history to move from the Bay Area to Murfreesboro, Tenn. Talk to her about *Zine World* at *PO Box 330156, Murfreesboro TN 37133-0156* or *jerianne@undergroundpress.org*.

John resides in America's toxic wasteland, also known as New Jersey. Currently he is taking out big, scary loans so he can complete his bachelor's degree. He isn't involved too much with zines these days besides the occasional review, though he hopes to change that soon. Reach him at: *jtmjsr@aol.com* or c/o *Zine World*.

John D. "Bud" Banks, our Webmaster, published *BudZine* for a brief period in the mid-90s. Since then, he's been earning a living and hanging out online, where you can find him at *www.easywriter.com*.

Karlos - I've always felt that trading zines is a good thing, although I sometimes feel that I'm increasingly in the minority on that point. I've been trying to figure out a way to express my willingness to trade in such a way that I don't get swamped and go broke. I'll try this: I'll trade with anyone who sends me a zine *not intended for ARG review*. Does that make sense to anyone? Oh, I almost forgot, I do a sparsely appearing zine called *Throwrug*, although to tell you the truth, I'm not feeling well right now and I think I'm just going to go to bed. *POB 3155, Bellingham WA 98227-3155* or *throwrug@mail.com*.

Kyle Bravo runs *How2 Zine Distro*, a source for practical and inspirational DIY guides to actively pursuing more self-sufficient, independent, and empowering lifestyles. For a catalog send 2 stamps to *PO Box 14523, Richmond, VA 23221*.

Larry - I live in La-La Land with my wife, Fiddler Crabs, and a houseful of zines. I have been suffering from zine-o-mania for the last fifteen years. I am obsessed with collecting zines, and I have a house and garage full of them. Although I have consulted the best psychiatrists that money can buy, they have informed me that there is no medication or therapy that can cure me of my obsession. One day there may be a cure, but my love for zines is so deep-seated that the shrinks have advised me that I would be a poor candidate for treatment and will never recover from my all-consuming love and passion for zines. May be reached c/o *Zine World*.

Lynne Lowe publishes the zine *Java Turtle* and organizes the Santa Barbara Zine Fest. Contact her at *lynne@javaturtle.com* or *PO Box 20028, Santa Barbara CA 93120*.

Michael - After a long hiatus, I've produced the new issue of *Inspector 18*: butting heads with bank clerks, pedestrianism vs. motorism, why a zine fair in New York sucked, a look at John Rucker: "success story." Also, a few essays (a serious look at silly laws and a defense of the English system), book reviews and more, all available for a mere \$2 cash, or a measly buck and 55¢ in stamps! Write to: *Michael, PO Box 3663, Grand Central Station, New York NY 10163-3663*.

Nicole Etolen - I just returned to the States after spending two years in Japan with my husband, a former broadcast journalist for the Navy. We both work on our own zine, *Dilapidated*, in whatever spare time we have. If you want a copy, write to *dilapzine@hotmail.com* or *160 Lake Valhalla, East Stroudsburg PA 18301*. That's about it, we're pretty boring people these days.

Sean and Malinda are temporarily trapped in South Carolina. Malinda is forever experimenting with what she can make out of thread and yarn. She also likes to write letters. Sean is working on his master's degree in library science. He does a zine called *Thoughtworm*, of which the latest issue can be had by sending \$2 to: *2216 Terrace Way, Columbia, SC 29205*. There's also a website: *www.thoughtworm.com*.

Stefano - I wrote *The Opera Vagabond* zine, which highlighted the lowlights of my operatic singing

MORE

Citizens, about normal people who seize an opportunity to stop a crime with their own guns. The tips alone make it worth checking out. [:20] -Nicole •••**SECOND OPINION:** "Libertarian-Anarchistic-SubGenius-Freedom Loving News from around the globe disseminated to the masses who most desperately need it." And that about sums it up. Monica Evans compiles articles from other publications (I think a couple may be original). While not all of the articles are political in nature (one charming article tells how a woman's love for Buddy Holly got her a new car), most of them are, and there's a particular emphasis on pro-gun stuff. That I read the articles about armed citizens successfully defending themselves and thought, "I wonder why there are no articles about guys getting drunk and shooting their wife" makes me think I'm probably not the target audience here. However, this endeavor is not without its charm, so if your thinking is along the line of Evans', you may want to give this a look see. *Dark Knight Productions, Ms. Monica Evans, 1115 45th Ave. Apt. 2E, Long Island City NY 11101* [\$2 suggested donation, \$20/two year sub 20M :25] -Steve

Sweet Dreams For Talula: A short, black and white comic about a girl trying to withdraw from life. The drawing and lettering are clean and effective, the narrative is straightforward and almost lyrical, the storyline is (I think) fatalistic and even suicidal. I'm not sure what the intended message is - suicide is painless?

- and was not drawn into the creation, but it's an easy read and I enjoyed the simple lithographs. *JB Thomas, PO Box 163463, Sacramento CA 95816* [\$2, or trade 32S :10] -Jacque

Synth: A graphic novella about a woman, whom we meet as she's getting out of prison. In flashback, she tells how she got there, via her involvement with a new illegal drug that comes in lipstick form (the "synth" of the title). Paul Houston tells a story of how good people can get in over their head. The results are involving and moving; the characters believable and subtle. The artwork is nothing special, but it gets the job done; this one is more about storytelling than artistic flash. Overall, a very good effort. *Paul Houston, 3811 NE 7th Ave., Portland OR 97212* [\$5 100S :25] -Steve

Tail Spins #33: This newsstand-ready zine (shiny cover and ISBN) is published by the people who do Zine Guide. About two years old when it arrived from ARG Headquarters, I'd seen this issue before, so only spent fifteen minutes reviewing it. Partial contents: White people's stories about riding Greyhound and selling plasma, 65 pages of tiny-print music reviews, Iggy Pop article, musician interviews (Dan of Race Traitor, e.g.) and a tour diary by two members of The Thumbs. *PO Box 1860, Evanston IL 60204* [\$4, \$5.50 Canada/Mexico, \$7 world, \$15 for 6 in U.S., \$22 for 6 in

Canada/Mexico, \$33 for 6 world 128M :15] -Chris

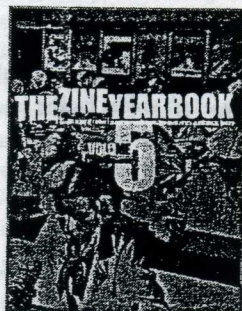
Tales From Hardcore Texas: This chapbook is definitely *not* for the faint of heart - but those left will find something quite original and compelling in this poetry/prose on drinking, drugs, sex, and beat-up poor Southern people. The zine is put together like a pad of paper or tablet with many pages - works of art in themselves: photos pasted to sheets, each page a different color, even a Miller High Life tin. Highly recommended for mature audiences. *W.B. Massey III, Genuine Lizard Press, PO Box 2044, Fort Worth TX 76113, www.anti-heroart.com* [\$5 US, \$7 all others 18S :20] -Tom

Tar & Feathers #1: Confused ramblings from the "fuck shit up" school of 'anarchism.' Matt thinks we should "have fun... break stuff and laugh," cheers on "mob action." He urges us to steal, shoplift, go primitive, defraud, extort, tip over soda machines, use violence. Between sketches silhouetted thugs wielding shillelaghs, the author tells us: "Recently, damage to property has been labeled as violent. This is bullshit." Such claims make me want to visit this rat and kick all his earthly possessions apart and see how he handles it. Yes, it's hard work to be ethical, work cooperatively in your community, and live daily by your values - but it's so much sexier to go to another city and smash a police car and "fuck shit up." Pure trash. [:45] -Michael

•••**SECOND OPINION:** Matt is a bit schizophrenically idealistic. He thinks we are killing our world, smothering it with the creations of man, making man the living dead by falling to the rules of society. He wants to see a return to primitivism - hunting and gathering, living off the land. Yet he works "at a shitty yuppie food store" and laments that retreating from society is beyond his control (even wondering about "grants to ... start anarchist utopias out in the woods"). He wants a peaceful anarchic existence, commenting that bringing such an existence about by force won't work (because it would just create a new system "forcefully repressing dissent"). Yet he applauds the violent actions of the black block at recent protests and invites looting and destruction. Oh, wait - damage to property isn't violence because it doesn't directly attack or inflict pain on a person. Right. He says the way for anarchy to succeed depends on changing people's minds about government and showing that we can all live in harmony, yet he names "less talk, more rocks" the best graffiti at the FTAA protest in Canada and lists extortion, tipping over soda machines, and defrauding Greyhound or airlines as "fun things to do." The only thing I can recommend

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from this garbage pile is the DIY living tips scattered throughout – but you can probably find a better source for such info. *Matt Wallace, 37 East Chestnut Street #3, Asheville NC 28801 [2 stamps 36S:30] –Jerianne*

The Ten Page News #29: Reading this zine made me feel like I was intruding on a private conversation – the writer(s?) seems to be on familiar terms with an established audience and unconcerned about attracting new readers. From what I can make out, someone is worried that the electronics industry is taking over math education, a laudable zine topic handicapped here by superficial writing. Elsewhere, a pair of correspondents flail at topics involving “intellectuals” and “co-optation.” I’m disappointed! I heard this zine was good! *Owen Thomas, PO Box 9651, Columbus OH 43209, vlorbik@aol.com, http://members.aol.com/vlorbik [\$1, three stamps, or trade 10S:15] –Susan*

The Tenth Frame #4: This is a comic meant to be read while listening to Thelonius Monk’s 1947 performance of “In Walked Bud,” which is included. The author says the sketchy, vague illustrations of the musicians are his attempt at showing what he visualizes when he listens to music. This is nice not just because it’s a thought-provoking idea, but because it has some really good biographical information on one of the better jazz musicians to boot. *Austin English, PO Box 460584, San Francisco CA 94146-0584, Three1145@aol.com [\$1 US, \$2 Canada/Mexico, \$3 elsewhere, or trade, includes free cd 32S:10] –John*

Third World Blues: This is a journal of a Peace Corp worker, covering four weeks of the time he spent Veti Levu, Fiji. It is very well written and reads more like a novel, none of the choppiness and obscure philosophizing usually found in journals. Fortunately for the reader, he seems to have led an interesting life during these four weeks. His stories are captivating. *Steve Kostecke, 50202 N. Horst Ct, Chesterfield MI 48047, skostecke@hotmail.com [\$3, or trade 58S:45] –Nicole*

The Thought #125: Like many long-established political zines, this libertarian-anarchist publication seems to serve a very specific readership community that contribute articles and comments on each other’s contributions. Unlike a lot of zines like this, though, the results aren’t overly insular nor do they come off like petty feuds. I think that can be attributed to the tone set by editor/publisher Ronald C. Tobin, who eschews *ad hominem* attacks both in his own contributions and in the articles he selects, and who creates an atmosphere where even the basic tenets of his philosophy are open to question. Also, he lightens the political mood by printing poetry and short stories (there’s a particularly sweet tale by Catherine A. Griner about a platonic relationship between a middle-aged divorced man and a younger married woman), somehow without losing

career. My attempts to awaken my fellow opera colleagues to the evils of government-funded arts and the inhuman condition of musical theater were met with deafening indifference. Although my singing career and zine are long dead, my enjoyment of reading artistic, anti-corporate, non-government funded zines lives on. I may be reached c/o Zine World or at operavagabond@hotmail.com.

Steve Omlid is sending these reviews while vacationing in the teeming metropolis of Tehachapi, Ca. Steve was born on September 11, and he hopes his birthday turns out a little better this year. His projects for 2002 include putting together a website on which to post his writing, and maybe, just maybe, doing some writing to post on said website. In the meantime, you can get smut and porn, chapbooks of naughty poetry he has written under the alias ferret, by sending three bucks apiece and an age statement to *Black Books, PO Box 31155, San Francisco CA 94131-0155*. Write to him c/o Zine World.

Susan Boren – Aside from nursing an obsessed preoccupation with mimes, I spend most of my free time locked in the grip of a record collection that is slowly taking over my library. Hour after hour, I sit in my comfy chair and watch helplessly, trapped by headphones, as the thin, black discs slide into my room and wedge themselves into dangerously overcrowded shelves. Are you “suffering” through a similar invasion? Let’s trade mix tapes! *PMB 265, 4230 East Towne Blvd., Madison WI 53704*.

Suzanne Hackett publishes *Your Attention, Please Zine*, a sporadically produced journal of outsider art and western exploration. She lives in Las Vegas with her husband (and partner in the Goldwell Open Air Museum and Sand Dune Press), their two sons, and Miss Cybil Shepard, dogstar of the perzine, *Unlucky in Love*. *1040 N. Cordova Street, Burbank, CA 91505*.

Tom Hendricks – As Art S. Revolutionary, I publish *Musea*, the monthly art zine that’s leading the art revolution *against* the corporate art and corporate media *weasels*! We cover every aspect of the arts plus hard news on the art world – with 100 issues so far! The *Musea* website is <http://musea.digitalchainsaw.com> Also available, the book, *Best of Musea: The First Fifty Issues*. A copy of *Musea* is \$1 or 3 stamps or trade: *4000 Hawthorne #5, Dallas TX 75219-2223*.

Violet Jones – Well, it has been a fun ride for me – this is my last appearance as a reviewer for Zine World. I am looking forward to being a plain ol’ subscriber again, and reading some of the great writers, old and new, who make this zine what it is. As for me, well, I am still deeply committed to the underground press, and in all likelihood will be so for the rest of my life. I am presently at work on a new publication, which is devoted entirely to the exercise of freedom, particularly the freedom of expression. I hope to have it finished in early 2002; the first issue will be free to all. Inquire at: *Box 55336, Hayward, CA 94545*.

Wred Fright, is retiring from Zine World to make room for the new pups. Let’s hope they’re “dog”matic so they’ll fit in. Keep in touch at *1413 Neshannock Blvd., New Castle PA 16105, wredfright@yahoo.com*.

We regret that neither A Reader’s Guide nor our staffers can afford to trade (exceptions noted). It’s just an economic impossibility, when we’re dealing with so many zines.

ARTISTS:

Andrew Penland (page 5) – *6573 Weldon Circle, Concord NC 28027, DrFrankn1@aol.com*.

Bobby Tran Dale (pages 6 and 7) – claims to be an artist. He’s even gone so far as to say that he has an archive of his illustrations that is housed at www.homoeroticon.com, as well as publishing a dark queer comic book under the Homoeroticon imprint. Purportedly, he can be found in other small press pub’s as well as financing his Ebay & snail-like publishing habit with freelancing to those with more expendable income and larger credit card limits than him. Yea, right. We know better, don’t we? *2539 Potomac St., Oakland CA 94602, botda@aol.com*.

Jim Sumii (cover) – draws & publishes 2 comix / zines. The oldest one being “Fecus” and the latest one called “Head Case.” All of it is on: <http://www.angelfire.com/zine/fecuscentral>. Spend most of my time drawing, hiding in my house and taking care of my two kids: Max n Atom. *Jsumii@hotmail.com*.

Kyle Bravo (pages 65 and 68) – see staff bio.

focus. A very solid zine. *Philosophers Guild*, PO Box 10760, Glendale AZ 85318-0760, guildmaster@worldnet.att.net, home.att.net/~guildmaster/wsb [\$2 28M :40] -Steve

Thought Bombs #16: This is the first zine that ever brought tears to my eyes. The first 15 pages are sort of a tribute to the author's father, who died this year. The story of his last days was heart wrenching. The rest of the zine contains well-written articles about ABC zine distro, terrifying nursery rhymes, and letters to the editor. A thoroughly excellent zine with real heart. *Anthony Rayson*, c/o S. Chicago ABC Zine Distro, PO Box 721, Homewood IL 60430, anthonyrayson@hotmail.com, members.xoom.com/thoughtbombs [\$2 US/Canada/Mexico, \$3 rest of world, or trade, free to prisoners 60S :45] -Nicole

Three a.m. #6: A somewhat melancholy personal zine by a girl who seems to fill her days and nights with drinking coffee and beer, smoking cigarettes, lack of sleep, loneliness, typewriters, photobooths, new wave music, bike rides, and other such things. The cut-and-paste, photocopy art aesthetic perfectly complements the content of the zine and is quite beautiful in a sort of sad and broken kind of way. *Lisa Mancini*, 2916 Stanton, Berkeley CA 94702 or (permanent address) 1690 Harper St., Santa Cruz CA 95062, newwaverevolution@hotmail.com [\$? 76S 1:00] -Kyle

Three And A Half #3: Formerly known as Three and A Half Ounces Zine. Fanzine with interviews of Hot Water Music, The Hippos,

Face To Face and Beau Beau from Avail. Includes reviews, a favorites "Of The Month" list, and an article on ghost chasing. Good sense of humor. Nice graphics. Reproduced photos ranged in quality from crystal clear to the usual shadowy black squares. Supposedly comes with a free CD. Mine didn't. 3316 Loreta Ct, Camarillo CA 93010, info@threeandahalf.com, www.threeandahalf.com [free 32M :25] -Jay

The Timelike Ad Sheet #5 (May/June 2001): Yul Tolbert offers this advertising forum to anyone willing to pay the \$5 for a full-page ad. A damn good deal if this gets good distribution, considering he'll also include sample pages from your zine for no additional cost. Besides the many ads in here for his various sci-fi comix, Yul also sounds off on the mainstream media and what he hates about Detroit. Done with computer layout and featuring Yul's unique drawing style. PO Box 02222, Detroit MI 48202-9998, yul_tolbert@usa.net, www.ad.sheet.homestead.com [2 stamps US, 1 IRC Canada/Mexico, 2 IRCs world, no trades 19S :10] -Sean & Malinda

The Timelike Ad Sheet #6: See No-Pest Strips #14.

Truck Stop Zine #6: This is a zine that explores what effect "The Road" has on all of our lives. Reviews of gas stations, a piece about joyriding by Neal Cassidy, an article about why the editor got rid of his car, some road inspired poetry, a little bit of history about a Smokey and the Bandit type race from 1957, and a few more things along those lines. PO Box 11102, Shorewood WI 53211-0102, truckstopzine@lycos.com, www.geocities.com/truckstopzine [\$? 24S :30] -Kyle

True Fiction #3: "Tragic Strips." This is a pocket-sized collection of seven comics. The stories are short, somewhat dark and odd, but interesting. The drawings are original and rendered cleanly and stylishly. True Friction is very short, and unfortunately only offers a tiny glimpse into T. Motley's work. Nice, but leaves you thinking, "That's it?" *T. Motley*, The Squid Works, PO Box 480463, Denver CO 80248-0463, tmotley@concentric.net, www.squidworks.com [\$1.50 12XS :5] -John

Two Eyes #3: Political zine with prose and poetry, some of it in a foreign language (Bangla?), most translated, some not. There's an interview with Flynn Connolly, a "feminist sci-fi novelist," and a four-page poem about Florida. There are also some cartoons, including one in which an immigrant arriving in the USA thinks, "I imagine that the streets here are lively with discussion and debate about important social and political issues. I'm so much looking forward to participating!" But

then - get this! - when this poor soul tries to discuss the WTO meeting in Qatar, he's met with blank stares! Man, *that's* some scathing social commentary for you! Americans are dumb! Who! Bleh. *Stephanie McMillan*, PO Box 2083, Fort Lauderdale FL 33303, minsec@earthlink.net, <http://home.earthlink.net/~twoeyesmagazine> [\$3 32S :20] -Karlös


undumb v2 #1 (June 2001): Paulo has resurrected this zine he used to do in high school, starting over with issue #1. The content is a mixture of his writing and some contributions from friends. Includes some creative writing, an anecdote about getting in trouble at school, dealing with redneck reactions to punk style at a truck stop, and some cute cartoons. There's nothing too earth shattering here - familiar topics of a punk not fitting in. We've seen issue #2, though, and undumb is definitely improving. Oh, and he *really* likes trades. [\$1, or stamps, "trades are great," free to prisoners 26S :30] -Sean & Malinda

...undumb v2#2: A little dumb. But I don't mean the sort of dumb that you knew as the popular crowd in high school, or the off-hand remarks of most of America's leadership. I mean the endearing, underwear-over-pants type dumb that makes for interesting stories and games. This one's filled with insights into Hoosier punk life in the 'burbs. *Paul Saylor*, 3572 W. State Rd. 10 #7, Lake Village IN 46349, paulo@gogmogog.net [\$1, or trade 28S :30] -eric

Unknown Element #2: Nutty stories edited by a fun-loving Filipino waiter who himself pens excellent protests against "The World of Dick," KKK Kids, and bouncers ("Someone should ban that androgen"). Drags through a few low spots, but before you know it, the writing rebounds with some merry, unexpected insight. "Can we tickle a physical lobe of your brain?" You betcha! *Mike Cala*, 14240 N. 42nd St. #3001, Tampa FL 33613, element_mail@yahoo.com, www.unknownelement.freesevers.com [\$2, \$3 world, or trade, free to prisoners 48S 2:00] -Susan

Uriel #3.5: Hand-bound with twine, this comes in a neatly spray-painted, hand-decorated envelope. It's got a bunch of crusty typewritten snippets and drawings about body image, relationships, a world gone bad, etc. You know, the usual stuff, though this one is done with some flair. Angry, but not too angry, and executed with some care, the presentation alone makes this one worth a look. *Sarah*, Box 1204, Santa Cruz CA 95016, xosawahxo@aol.com ["the usual" 40XS :30] -Violet

Verbicide #4: An uneven but entertaining newsprint hodgepodge. The blah music coverage (an irritating Atom and His Package



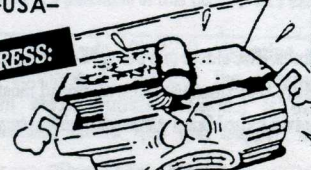
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NEW ADDRESS:



interview, lots of punk and metal reviews, etc.) is offset by some outre fiction and striking photography. The interview with Soft Skull Press' Sander Hicks was interesting. Even the road trip diary would've been interesting without that goddamn all-lowercase tic. Your mileage will vary. At the very least, it's an uncommon bargain at two skins. *Jackson Ellis, Scissor Press, Yale Station, PO Box 206512, New Haven CT 06520, jackson@scissorpress.com, www.scissorpress.com/verbicide* [\$2 68M :30] -Emerson

A View #52: Aggressively, mind-blowingly unfunny one-frame cartoons. Agonizing cutesiness. Witless beyond description. Scour the sidewalk for Laffy Taffy wrappers instead. *Michael Goetz, 2124 Arizona Ave., Rockford IL 61108* [trade 16XS :03] -Emerson

The Voluntarist #109: I don't get these guys. How can people argue persuasively against the coercive essence of government and then offer laissez faire as its alternative? Corporate license is not freedom for the individual; why would an anti-authoritarian newsletter argue that it is? Are these guys baiting their readers with the abolition of government only to force a corporate master at them? I looked for another reading, but I couldn't find one. *Carl Watner, PO Box 1275, Gramling SC 29348* [\$4, or ".07 ounce of fine gold," \$20 for a six-issue subscription, \$25 overseas 8M :55] -Susan

War Hysteria! Leave it to King Karl Wencas to not lose his head like most of the rest of the USA in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Instead of all the hand-wringing from columnists in the New York Times and other media organs saying 'how can one create art after what happened,' Wencas just goes ahead and demonstrates why it's more important than ever to create art in the face of evil, whether from Islamic fundamentalist fascists or the Western military-industrial complex. This mini-novel takes a look at the fans of war hysteria being whipped up by the government and the media in order to take advantage of the situation from attempts to abolish civil liberties to increasing the profits of big oil and has characters ranging from TV commentators/lapdogs for the rich to Vice President Dick Cheney to a little bird. It provides an analysis and portrait of America in this time of crisis. It illustrates quite well why working class schmucks like us will be on the frontline of whatever comes next, while the people crying loudest for revenge and war will be sitting in comfortable surroundings with none of their families and friends in danger. And, no, it's not didactic propaganda, as Wencas doesn't claim to have the answers; it's art and raises questions only each reader can answer for him

or herself. The type of powerful work that at this time sadly only emerges from the zine underground. *PO Box 42077, Philadelphia PA 19101, kingwencas@hotmail.com* [\$2 14S :25] -Wred

Watch the Closing Doors #16: Fred is enthusiastic about trains, subways, etc. While a zine on this subject might sound like a snoozer to the non-rail worshipper, Fred's passion is infectious. You'll find yourself happy to ride along on the #5, or over to Atlantic Avenue; you'll shake your head at the woes of the Manhattan Bridge Soap Opera. My only complaint is that some of the photos don't reproduce well - but so it goes with photocopying. *Fred Argoff, 1800 Ocean Pkwy #B-12, Brooklyn NY 11223-3037* [4 for \$10, check or money order to Fred Argoff 24S :15] -Jerianne

We Who Are Not Like Others #11: The zine consists of various comic strips, ranging from one page to several pages long and remind me of the type of writing you see in Japanese anime. There are bits of humor hidden in unexpected places. The main highlight of this zine is definitely the illustrations. Almost every page contains stunning, detailed drawings that inspire awe. There is some amazing talent contained within these pages and I highly recommend checking it out. *Evil Twins Comix, 14 Nevada Rd, Tyngsborough MA 01879, deadstars@lycos.com, http://livevil.cjb.net* [\$3 US, \$4 Mexico and Canada 32M :40] -Nicole

Western Lore #4: The best piece by far in this nice looking zine was a reprint of "Golden City of the Dawn" (1956) by classic western writer Nell Murbarger. Other than that it was slim pickins, though I liked a 2-pager on the life of swing fiddler Spade Cooley and the article on how to make a fake UFO out of straws, candles, and a plastic bag. *210 21st Street, Sacramento CA 95814* [\$? 36S :30] -Tom

The Wet Firecracker #1: This zine serves as an explanation of the Underground Literary Alliance's protest of the Firecracker Alternative Book Awards naming McSweeney's as the best zine of 2001 (see ARG #16) and as a platform to convince fellow zinesters to join the protest. Though readers may disagree over finer points of the argument, I challenge any to disagree with the thesis: "If the goal [of the awards] is to give zines publicity and visibility ... why did they pick a journal that isn't a zine, and a journal that already has had huge, national publicity?" *Underground Literary Alliance, PO Box 42077, Philadelphia PA 19101-2077* [\$? 16S :20] -Jerianne

The Whirligig #3: Lit zine with five short stories and some poetry. There are some big zine names here (Jeffrey Somers of *The Inner*

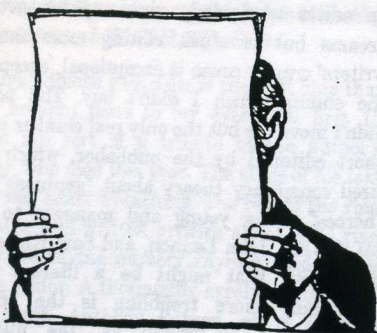
Swine and Jim Munroe of *Holiday in The Sun*) but I think the story by Ann Sterzinger about an editor who's long given up his artistic dreams but is stuck editing more famous writers' crappy prose is exceptional, except for the ending which I didn't buy. The poetry didn't move me but the only real clunker is the short editorial by the publisher, which is a tired conspiracy theory about "geniuses" and "heroes" dying young and manages to link MLK, JFK, John Lennon, and Sam Kineson. I do believe that might be a literary first. Potentially more troubling is the editor's proclamation of women as "the ultimate doom." Still, I definitely recommend this for short story fans out there. [:45] -Gordon

...**SECOND OPINION:** This is one of the few literary zines I've come across lately that actually contains very high quality short fiction. The editor has obviously taken great care in choosing the best pieces possible to present in a neat little package. I highly suggest checking it out because I feel that based on the work shown, the writers will enjoy great success if they keep up what they've shown here. *Frank J. Marcopulos, 4809 Avenue N # 117, Brooklyn NY 11234, whirligig21@aol.com, members.aol.com/whirligig21/whirligig.html* [\$3 61S 1:00] -Nicole

Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete? #2: Interesting perzine about being married and a mom as a teenager, written a decade and a marriage down the road from those events. *Bee Laverder, PO Box 12525, Portland OR 97212* [\$2, or trade 28S :15] -Wred

Wishbone #10: Smart and friendly. Angela doesn't publish often and gives us only quality writing as a result. She and her sister share their tech savy (including helpful computer shopping tips). Hubby Bruce uncovers oil price manipulation. Grade A personal writing (in "Employment Hell" - working at a dermatology office in the midst of rich Orange County - and journal excerpts). Clean design, cute illustrations, and bunny pics. *Bunnigrrrl, PO Box 1098, Grover Beach CA 93483, www.wishbonezine.com* [\$2 40S 1:00] -Jerianne

Wonka Vision #15 (August/Sept. 2001): "Your source for independent music and thoughts" - chockablock with music ads, interviews and reviews - *Wonka Vision* is pretty good if you like this sort of thing ("punk, hardcore, indie, hip hop, metal"). I was interested to know that there's a store called Angry Young & Poor in Lancaster, Pennsylvania (an interview with a co-founder appears here) and amused by an "I butted heads with Wesley Willis" account. Surprise: There's even some not-half-bad poetry. *Justin Luczejko, 670 Inca St., Denver CO 80204, wustinwonka@yahoo.com, www.wonkavisiononline.com* [\$2 80M :18] -Chris



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Your line drawings of mimes, that's right, *mimes*. Also looking for mime history, mime biographies, pictures of mimes, mime memorabilia, and mime how-to's. Possible zine in the works; until then, please consider this an urgent personal appeal. You got yours, now give me Mime! Susan Boren, PMB #265, 4230 East Towne Blvd, Madison WI 53704-3704.

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More than a thousand people will see this ad. For only \$10 they could be reading about your zine or your project, right now. Write c/o ARG for complete information.

Wrestling Then & Now #136 (August 2001): Although we are not avid wrestling fans, we appreciated the dedication and enthusiasm found within the pages of this zine. There is a lot of information in here, including columns by both current and former wrestlers. This issue features an entertaining article about experiences the editor has had while teaching a wrestling elective course in a New York public school, and an informative interview with King Kong Bundy. The zine includes a balanced mixture of focus on lesser-known (at least to us) indie wrestlers and some of the more famous ones, both past and present. Highly recommended to anyone with even just a passing interest in professional wrestling. Evan Ginsburg, PO Box 640471, Oakland Gardens Station, Flushing NY 11364, evan_ginsburg@yahoo.com (editorial/letters to the editor), lekkerspikkels@msn.com (production/mailings) [\$2.50, \$15 for 6 month sub, \$25 for year sub, \$40 for two year sub, overseas add \$1 per copy, checks to Evan Ginsburg 15M :30] –Sean & Malinda

Writhe and Shine #1 (October 2000): "Lies, Rumors and Twisted Words." This mini-comic turned full-size with a glossy cover features a goth storyline drawn in black and white and set in New Orleans. The story follows Writhe, a new guy in the scene, who stirs up rumors and ill feelings without realizing it. His two companions are Sven, the owner of the club where he DJs, and Shine, a seasoned scene veteran who befriends him. Robert's appealing drawing style makes this comic more flexible, considering its somewhat specialized subject matter. An impressive first issue. Robert Tritthardt, 828 Royal St., PMB #247, New Orleans LA 70116, www.opi8.com/writhe_and_shine, dj_writhe@prodigy.net [\$4 24M :25] –Sean & Malinda

Keens and Things #13: What a great little review zine, in which James describes for us twelve zines, four catalogs, three articles, and a bit of music and other things he's come across lately. His reviews are thorough, descriptive, opinionated, and even a bit personally revealing at times – pretty much along the same lines as most of the reviews in A Reader's Guide. And for a price like that, I'd say it's well worth getting your hands on. James N. Dawson, PO Box 613, Redwood Valley CA 95470 [25¢+SASE, or trade 8L :30] –Kyle

Xerox Revolutionaries: "paper zines for queer punks." A good resource for queer zines and comics, although there aren't as many entries as there probably should be (only around 25) and the reviews are only a couple of lines each. PO Box 3411, Tallahassee FL 32315-3411,

xeroxrevdistro@yahoo.com, www.geocities.com/xeroxrevdistro [free 14S :10] –eric

Xtra Tuf #4: This zine consists of the author's tales at sea on fishing boats. Based on the stories, I am assuming the author was a cook on the boats. The stories are personable and interesting, and there is even a recipe towards the end, and a glossary for the rest of us landlubbers. The tales are fun to read, and it's definitely something different for once. It's nice to see something so original. Moe Bowstern, PO Box 6834, Portland OR 97228 [\$1, \$1.50 Canada/Mexico, \$2 elsewhere, or trade, free to prisoners, free to commercial fisher women (must prove with authentic salty fishing tale) 48XS :30] –Nicole

XYZed #13: XYZed is a surprisingly mediocre read. You get the feeling the author is writing more out of a drudging sense of duty, rather than any real interest – a shame, because he's not a bad writer. Pieces include: a chance meeting with comic actor Red Green, an anticlimactic piece on meeting ex-Rush front man Geddy Lee, a career summary of Bruce Lee impersonator Bruce Li, zine and record reviews, and a rant against rude KFC deliverymen. The literary equivalent of swallowing dry mothballs. J Anxiety-Stewart, 6 Haig St., St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 6K5, Canada [\$2 US 24S :40] –eric

Yonah Schimmel Zine Review #1: Inspired by ZW: ARG, this is the antipodean (read: Down Under) resource for zines, stores and distribution. They shamelessly adore cut-n-paste, messy, "scrappy" zines; the text bleeds off the edges in places, and reviews ramble apologetically. This could yet put the Aussie zine scene on the map. As one reviewer put it: "It all adds up to some sort of thing, and the best ones are the ones where you connect with the thing." Try it. Esther, PO Box 2029, Lygon St North, East Brunswick 3057, Australia, yonahschimmel@bigfoot.com [\$3 US/Canada, \$3Aus within Australia, free to prisoners, or trade (email first) 52S 1:30] –Jaina

Your Bitter Pill #1: A typically unfocused #1, charming when it dwells on Legos and recommends "Legoporn" websites, informative when it posits the most unflattering revelation I've ever heard about that fossilized piece of shit Walt Disney, and severely dull when it descends to overemotional, under-researched Bush bashing. Drop the price, but keep it up. And use the magnetic poetry for inspiration only. Don't print it. Please? Amanda Atkeson, c/o Shimer College, PO Box 500, Waukegan IL 60079, yourbitterpill@hotmail.com [\$2 16M :07] –Emerson

Your Mama's Not Home #1: Mariah describes this as a sort of Highlights for adults. I can go

ADDRESS CHANGES

- arrowed zine – *lauren michele*, 31 Union Square West #6A, New York NY 10003
- Batteries Not Included – *Richard Freeman*, 513 North Central Ave., Fairborn OH 45324
- Bizarre Ink – *Hillary Rea*, 244 S. Quince St., Philadelphia PA 19107
- Booty – *Anne*, 5 Kells Ave. Apt 4, Newark DE 19711
- Brooklyn/Watch the Closing Doors – *Fred Argoff*, 1800 Ocean Pkwy. #B-12, Brooklyn NY 11223-3037
- The Chain Ring Ate My Pants – *Rob Kelley*, 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd. #MS1086, Portland OR 97202-8138
- Cobweb Junction – *Aiko Akers*, PO Box 95584, Seattle WA 98145-2584, jitterbean@yahoo.com
- CRAMPzine – *Rob Kelley*, 3203 SE Woodstock #1086, Portland OR 97202
- Creature Features – *Jerry Dombrowski*, 1999 Trowbridge, Hamtramck, MI 48212
- Cutlass – *Janice Flux*, PO Box 1607, Santa Cruz CA 95060
- Dilapidated – *Nicole Etole*, 160 Lake Valhalla, East Stroudsburg PA 18301
- Don't Let's – *Jeff Jackson*, 631 O'Farrell St. #814, San Francisco CA 94109
- drinkdrankdrunk – *Fred Wright*, 1413 Neshannock Blvd., New Castle PA 16105
- Farming Uncle – *Box 427*, Bronx NY 10458
- FBI (Females Battling Ignorance) zine distro, PO Box 63619, Philadelphia PA 19147
- Funtime Comics – *PO Box 1961*, Christchurch, New Zealand, <http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~Sdarrens/ftc.html>
- Gray Noise/Self-Help Comics – *Nathan Thraikill*, 631 5th St. #3, Ames IA 50010
- Great Worm Express Distribution – *François Villeneuve*, PO Box 19013, 360A Bloor Street West, Toronto ON M5S 1X1, Canada
- The Inner Swine – *Jeff Somers*, PO Box 3024, Hoboken NJ 07030
- Judas Goat Quarterly – *Grant Schreiber*, 1223 W Granville #2N, Chicago IL 60660
- Kairan – *Gianni Simone*, 3-3-23 Nagatsuta, Midori-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan
- Ker-Bloom – *artnoose*, PO Box 3525, Oakland CA 94609
- Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet – *360 Atlantic Ave., PMB 132*, Brooklyn NY 11217
- lightning bug zine – *Kirstin M. E. Munro*, PO Box 3824, Portland OR 97208, <http://lightningbugzine.com>
- Mr. Peebody's Soiled Trousers and Other Delights – *Jay Koivu*, PO Box 931333, Los Angeles CA 90093
- Muvfugga – *John Gehner*, 4146 39th Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55406
- My Moon or More/Secret Life of Snakes – *Cullen Carter*, 1403 N. 52nd St., Milwaukee WI 53208, cully_j@yahoo.com
- New Philistine/Zine Beat – *Karl Wenclas*, PO Box 42077, Philadelphia PA 19101
- One Star Books – *Karl*, 599C Holloway Rd, London N19 4DJ, UK
- Opera Vagabond – *Stefano*, PO Box 270227, Austin TX 78727
- Our Two Cents – *Jacque Rowden*, 2212 Shady Ave., Pittsburgh PA 15217
- Paniscus Revue/Malefact – *Tom Crites*, PO Box 20175, Seattle WA 98102-1175
- Ped Xing – *Androo Robinson*, PO Box 9781, Wyoming MI 49509
- Phony Lid Publications – *548 S. Spring St., Suite 334*, Los Angeles CA 90013-2333
- Polar Star Zine – *Deanne Theresa*, 207-39 Rodenbush Dr., Regina SK S4R 8C7, Canada
- Race Traitor – *The New Abolitionists*, PO Box 499, Dorchester MA 02122, www.postfun.com/racetractor
- Rat Blood Soup (formerly Willzine) – *Will McNaul*, PO Box 26098, Philadelphia PA 19128, will@ratbloodsoup.com, www.ratbloodsoup.com
- Reddog Review – *Ashabot*, POB 8739, Medford OR 97504, www.ashabot.com
- Rejected Band Names – *Jerianne*, PO Box 330156, Murfreesboro TN 37133-0156
- a renegade's handbook to love & sabotage – *ciara xyerra*, PO Box 100, Medford MA 02153

MORE "Address Changes," p. 66

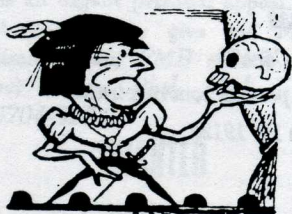
with that. Most of the zine is quite fun – although the educational aspects are more limited (DIY beauty solutions and crafts). Definitely a sexy edge, with the essay on one girl's love for masturbation and the 'clinical' explanation of WanCox Disease (ie, "want cock" disease). The boring pages are forgiven, by virtue of the clever ones and the good use of clip art. *Mariah*, PO Box 2366, New York NY 10009, yourmamasnohome@popstar.com, ww.w.bigmamaparty.com [\$2 40S :20] –Jerianne

Zine Guide #5: Zine Guide is packed with contact info and short descriptions for hundreds of zines and is a great resource for the zine reading world. Zine Guide also has many controversial lists (worst zines as voted upon by readers, etc.) which, while fun, lose a little bit of their luster when you realize that the same zines tend to be voted "best" and "worst" most of the time. Still this is crammed with stuff that's useful for people who read. *PO Box 5467, Evanston IL 60204, zineguide@yahoo.com* [\$6, \$8 Canada/Mexico, \$10 world 158M 1:00] –Gordon

Zine Wonder #1: Juggling activism, IQ, and an open mind, this dexterous zine kept me guessing about the writer's politics, obscuring the finer points of feminist theory behind veils of pure entertainment. Clever! Joolie takes her act to a frat house, makes it defend Eminem, watches it grow leg hair, and celebrates when it defiantly cries out, "IT'S TIME TO REDESIGN OUR TAMPON MACHINES." Encore! *Joolie Raymond, Wellesley College, Cazenove Hall, 106 Central St., Wellesley MA 02481, zinewonder@hotmail.com* [\$1, \$2 world, or trade 12S :15] –Susan

audio

Full Gallop #8: This may be the best tape zine I've ever gotten. The music is diverse: punk, folk, country, klezmer, etc. and the spoken



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parts are almost always interesting. Iggy Scam's "My Life and Socialism" is terrific and uses the genre well, mixing in NATO bombing protest noises along with his observations of the demo, his bittersweet feelings of running into his old lover, and thoughts on the meaning of it all. A prank phone call "from" a hippy who might have left his 6 month old at some place of business made me laugh so hard my housemates worried about me. A compilation of messages from "Kiss My Ass Mondays," a local radio show that encourages listeners to call in and tell people to kiss their asses, just got better and better. Unfortunately this has the weaknesses of a tape zine at times also: indecipherable sections, mixed recording quality, the difficulty of skipping ahead if something is boring etc. But it's worth it all for a glimpse into this community of people creating their own music and art. Comes with a thick booklet with which to follow along. *PO Box 582514, Minneapolis MN 55458* [\$2 cassette 1:00] –Gordon

books

Amped by Jon Resh: Subtitled "Notes From a Go-Nowhere Punk Band," it's a book by the singer of the early '90s band Spoke. The first half of the book is made up of short vignettes of the people in the band, moments in the singer's life, and the Florida emo-punk scene. The rest is a tour diary from the band's last shows before they broke up. At times it almost seems too self-deprecating, making the reader question why one should read the book if the writer's band is so unimportant, but overall it's a good read and a *great* deal at the price. It's a wonderful reminiscence of that particular punk scene and, whether you loved or hated that generation of emo, it'll bring back memories. *Viper Press, PO Box 3394, Chicago IL 60690-3394, www.viperpress.com* [\$4.50 156PB 2:30] –Gordon

Fowler Still: I can't stop looking at this for the same reason I couldn't stop listening to Technotronic's "Pump Up the Jam" when it was all over the radio: It annoys the fuck out of me. It's a long poem with accompanying illustrations about "Fowler Still," a guy with a chicken face who hates everything but discovers the power of love, or something. It's really hard to get through; the poetry is pretty awkward, featuring such labored phrases as "like blows from hammer sledge" in an attempt to make everything rhyme. Prose, maybe, next time, buddy. [:20] –Karlo •••**SECOND OPINION:** This unusual illustrated lyrical allegory is careful poetry in quatrains and couplets, a cornball fable about a mean-spirited, beak-nosed sourball who delights in driving Pollyannas to despair with his

depressing cynicism, who meets a hopeful and loving woman who teaches him to feel again. (What corn!) Regrettably, the stilted versification and competent but static artwork do little to propel the story. *Bhatari Asid Ltd., John Dimes, 1660 Lanier Place NW, #220, Washington DC 20009, jdimes@starpower.net, www.dimestime.com* [\$9.95, free to prisoners 56S :12] –Michael

Rash by Charles Romalotti: Really good novel about four homeless kids in Austin, Texas. Romalotti explores their different ways of coping and what lead them there. One of the four characters deteriorates psychically as the result of an unofficial paid medical experiment, and the others deal with this and what it might imply for them about desperation and survival in the streets. Don't get the idea that it's written by some lame anthropologist or something; it's not full of glamorizing, generalizing, or tsk-tsking, and the main characters never read false to me. One or two of the more minor characters weren't developed enough to my liking, but the book, and most of the plots and subplots, hooked me. I stayed up much later than I should have to finish it once I started. *Layman Books, PO Box 4702, Austin TX 78765* [\$8 172PB 3:00] –Gordon

A Reference Guide to Life by Ronald D. Wright Sr.: "A Positive Approach to Life's Milestones." Please, whatever you do, don't waste your time reading this book! I'm seriously upset that I wasted as much time on this as I did, and I didn't even finish reading it! It was really that bad. It's essentially a self-help book that is intended to help people who read it figure out where they have problems in their life and then help them find positive ways to deal with and confront these problems. It sounds really nice in theory – I was actually kind of excited about reading it when I first got it. The problem is that the way it's written turns what could possibly be a great thing into not much more than a bunch of hokey, smarmy hoo-hah. Lots of biblical quotes, poorly thought out arguments, and feel-good baloney with no basis in reality fill these pages. It sort of comes off as if a preacher wrote it hoping to spread his somewhat distorted view of the world to the masses, but trying to pass it off as a hip and fun kind of thing. Blech, it makes me want to puke. It's kind of funny though, how this book that's supposed to make me look at the world in a positive way, instead turned me into a grumpy, critical jerk. *authorbill@msn.com, www.lifedealings.com, or 1-800-235-6646* [\$17.90 179PB 2:00] –Kyle

Royal Flush Book 1 (Summer 2001): This self-published anthology of Loisada comic book artists alternately amuses ("Hispanic Batman &

Roberto") and disturbs ("The Man Who Beats Priests"). Mostly the latter. While diverse in style, it represents predominantly (if not entirely) men's bleak visions involving guns, violence, and death. If the idea of sequential vomiting, a movie bully checklist ("owns fingerless gloves"), and dark take-offs on Peanuts and Golden Books sounds appealing, you may like this. Better work next time, perhaps. 97 Clinton St., #1B, New York NY 10002, josh@numberfoundation.org [\$8.95 72M :26] -Chris

Vegan And Vegetarian FAQ: Answers To Your Frequently Asked Questions by Davida Gypsy Breier and Reed Mangels of The Vegetarian Resource Group: This collection of questions fielded by the VRG website is best used as a reference tome, but it's a good one, and will likely answer most of your questions about living la vida veggie. You can find information on everything from where to get vegan bowling shoes to what's vegetarian friendly at fast food joints. And it has a number of recipes to yummy your tummy! My one beef, or rather carrot in this case, is that a lot of the answers to the questions direct the inquirer to an online resource rather than just answering them outright in the book. Still, that's small potatoes as this mound of tofu will satisfy most hungry minds. *The VRG, PO Box 1463, Baltimore MD 21203, vrg@vrg.org, www.vrg.org [\$15, in Maryland add 5% for sales tax 272PB 2:00]* -Wred

Wise Fool Basics: "A Handbook of our Core Techniques," by K. Ruby. No question: You'll want to get this book if you're into street theater or giant puppet making. Stilts, puppets, effigies, masks; easy to follow directions show you how to make all of these things in nearly endless variations. Also lots of tips on forming your own groups, storytelling, and a history of Wise Fool Puppet Intervention events. Really thick and packed with information. Personally, I've got some issues with the whole agitprop/reach-the-masses-through-puppets thing, but there's no debating that the tools you'll learn through this book will help liven up a boring demo. *Wise Fool Puppet Intervention 2633 Etna St., Berkeley CA 94704, or PO Box 9631, Santa Fe NM 87505 [\$10-15 sliding scale 96M :30 (but much of the book is project oriented, not sit-down-and-read. It would take hours to read the whole thing)]* -Gordon

The Zine Yearbook v5: The best of what zines have to offer? You'd better believe it. A vast array of topics covered in a vast array of writing (and drawing) styles, all of high caliber. Among the pieces that stuck with me: the illustrated "D.I.Y. Anti-Depression Guide" (from Doris), which gives easy-to-follow tips on

how to conquer depression; "Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder - My Story" (Rumpshaker), incredibly interesting; "Shit You Hear at Parties" (Drinking Sweat in the Ash Age) - three paragraphs that perfectly encapsulate the universal party experience (at least for us non-social types); "Value" (Emergency), which tells the story of one gal's relationships, couched by the various definitions for the word "value." Into personal writing or activism? Interviews or third-person narrative? Biking, environmentalism, medical experiences, investigative reporting, sarcastic letters to giant corporations? It's all here. Purchasing this book is a great way to be introduced to authors you haven't seen before, as well as to show your support for the excellent writers in our zine community. Be forewarned that, because of some glitch in the printing process, many of the articles are lacking apostrophes and quotation marks. It's odd, but not as troublesome as the address errors on at least two entries - the address for Black Sun was left out of the book (but included on an insert), and our address was incomplete. If there's one thing you'd hope a book highlighting zine work would get right, it would be the mailing addresses. Hopefully these two were the only ones screwed up. (PS: Continue to show your support by nominating articles, essays, and whatnot from 2001 for The Zine Yearbook v6!) *Become the Media, PO Box 1225, Bowling Green OH 43402, www.clamormagazine.org/yearbook [\$8 US 145M hours and hours and hours...]* -Jerianne

video

Antarctica: A collection of short films featuring somewhat shoddy editing, bad sound track fades, and cuts that left the viewers wondering why they were still watching a bad close up of a chair ("Tenderness"). The two highlights were the title short ("Antarctica") and "The Strange and Terrible Fate of Sir Robert Scott," the only film to truly overcome its budget and talent problems through creative use of costume and sound effects. This collection was decidedly not zine-like, although a video zine is mentioned in the credits as being an inspiration. *Napier Street Studios, 1745 Napier Street, Vancouver BC V5L 2N1, Canada, meesoo@direct.ca [\$? VHS 1:00]* -Sean & Malinda

Featherless Exercycle v1: "A Strange Video Collection of Ever Changing Ideas." Five separate "films" comprise this collection pieced together by Billy McKay (Tile and Invisible Robot Fish comix) and a group of his enthusiastic friends. Obviously created to see how much fun could be had with a video camera, rather than in an attempt to satisfy

some lofty dedication to a set of film aesthetics, the collection overflows with bizarre and often humorous imagery and sound effects. Although it's far from technically perfect, we're also certain that it wasn't intended to be. Includes footage of Halloween mischief, some re-dubbed video clips, a low-tech approach to animation, and a montage of magic tricks. *Billy McKay and Pals, PO Box 542, N. Olmsted OH 44070 [\$5 VHS :38]* -Sean & Malinda

e-zines & websites

Babel Magazine: This site has a ton of authors of various expertise, age, and fields of study, which helps lend it a lot of diversity, and a ton of articles to keep you busy. The articles cover a wide variety of subjects, political statements, rants, slice of life pieces - the usual. The site is very well designed, fast loading, and no pop-ups to x out of. www.babelmagazine.com -Nicole

Catalyzer: This e-zine seems to be in its early stages, and the author is asking for submissions. It is poetry and prose based. Not much different from other sites of this nature, but if you like poetry (more of that here so far than the prose), then I'd say give it a glance. Maybe by the time you are reading this, it will have some more stuff up. www.catalyzerjournal.com -Nicole

Goodbye! This journal of contemporary obits has gone quarterly, and did anyone else know that the biker from the Village People died? Love this e-zine; nothing satisfies the morbid curiosity than reading bizarre obits, and checking out the sections on people who died from sheer stupidity. www.goodbyemag.com -Nicole

Juked: (Nov. 2001 issue) This is one of the best e-zines I've seen in a while. The articles are extremely well written; the site has found the perfect balance between serious and silly, entertaining and informative. It even has a relatively hoppin' board, which is rare to find in e-zines. I actually bookmarked it, something I don't do all that often. www.juked.com -Nicole

Political Song: Alright, the mouse trail has to go, I hate those things. The layout is crisp and clean, and the site has potential. It just needs more content. When I visited, there was an interview with Propagandi, a very good article about anarchy vs. democracy, and lyrics to political songs, among a few other regular website features. I would put this e-zine in a "one to watch" category. politicalsong.cjb.net -Nicole

Pop Update: I didn't find too much of interest at first, but the article about *The Weakest Link* mocking your life was too good to not say something about. Also, if the letter from the grandma is real, it's hilarious. Some other amusing stuff can be found here. No annoying pop-up ads or banners to sift through, either. popupdate.com -Nicole

Sad Magazine: Gingham backgrounds and vintage graphics create an old-timey feel for this newfangled medium. The sad conceit succeeds, with a cruel "Misfortune Teller" game and a section entitled "The Town Crier." A highlight is the "Pain Perdu Archives," filled with witty and thematic correspondences between editor Mary Burt and her admirers. Celebrity contributors are indexed for easy reference. Nostalgic e-postcards promote a distant intimacy. I wish it had a soundtrack. SadMagazine.tripod.com -Jaina

not quite a zine, but maybe worth a read

Alternative Press Review v6#2: Loads of great content in this magazine, from cartoons that are actually very witty to extensive articles covering every aspect of the underground scene. The review section isn't too shabby either. I can't think of a bad thing to say about this magazine, except maybe the price is a little steep. But it's worth it. *PO Box 4710, Arlington VA 22204-4710* [\$5, \$16 US regular sub, \$24 US first class sub, \$24 surface foreign, \$32 airmail foreign, \$8 prisoners US, \$12 prisoners foreign 75M 1:00] -Nicole

Cinemad #5: A glossy-covered, bar-coded film magazine featuring interviews with filmmakers and actors, reports on the New York Underground Film Festival, the San Francisco International Film Festival, film reviews, zine reviews, and more. Not being particularly well versed in cinema, we had only heard of one of the interviewees - R. Lee Ermey, the actor who played the drill instructor in *Full Metal Jacket*. This interview and the others (James Fotopoulos, Suzuki Seijun (reprint), Caveh Zahedi (reprint), and Larry Foster) were all of pretty high quality. Overall, the writing in *Cinemad* is good; both it and the layout show that the editor puts a lot of work into producing this magazine. *PO Box 43909, Tucson AZ 85733*, cinemadmag.com [\$4, \$12 for 4 issues 56M :45] -Sean & Malinda

Clamor #9 (July/August 2001): Despite its glossy, barcoded appearance, *Clamor* retains the spirit of independence that is so inherent in the zine community. Its easy-to-read

magazine-like format is divided into topics ranging from cultural and political to personal, with an amazingly low ad-to-content ratio. This issue focuses on "Policing the People," and contains many articles related to repression and imprisonment. The extensive range of artwork, reviews, and informative articles comes from an equally wide variety of author and artists, touching on many relevant current topics. *Clamor* is an important magazine - we recommend that you help yourself, and the people who publish it, by ordering a subscription today!! *PO Box 1225, Bowling Green OH 43402*, info@clamormagazine.org, www.clamormagazine.org [\$4 US, \$6 world, \$18 US/\$25 world (in US funds) for 6 issues, checks to Become the Media 88M 2:30] -Sean & Malinda

Metal Rules! Magazine #10: Much to my surprise, *Metal Rules!* does actually kinda rule. There's a bunch of interviews with metal bands where the questions get progressively sillier (that's a lie, actually. They start out pretty silly); the reaction of the bands range from bemused to barely tolerant to pissed off ("Why did you want to do this interview? No more statements, sorry, I have no time for this shit!"). Unfortunately, they're done mostly via email, which lessens the humor potential. There are three interviews done live, though, which more than make up for that: B-movie queen Julie Strain, the guy that played Rerun on *What's Happening?*, and, best of all, actor Gary Busey, who is, I have to say, a total nutbar, and belligerent to boot ("What are you asking me this question for? It's a stupid question."). Delightfully, Busey keeps contacting the magazine to continue the interview, much to the dismay of the interviewer. Ha! Even this avowed non-metalhead read all of the interviews, which I almost never do; this kept me amused for a couple of hours longer than most "serious" music magazines do. *Jeff Rappaport, 2116 Sandra Road, Voorhees NJ 08043*, metaljeff@home.com, www.metalrulesmagazine.com [\$5 worldwide, check or money order ok to *Metal Rules!* 116M 3:00] -Karlos

Morbid Curiosity #5: Thick stock, glossy cover with an ISSN stamped right on the front. Good title for a publication that contains articles on rhinoplasty, the Museum of Death, sleeping in a casket, graveyards, spinal injections, funeral homes, the occult and oh so much more. This is a solid, well-produced bit of literature with over a dozen contributing writers. *Morbid*, yes. But educational as well. *PO Box 12308, San Francisco CA 94112*, morbid@charnel.com, www.charnel.com/morbidcuriosity [\$6 US, \$10 overseas (make checks payable to Loren Rhoads) 116M :45] -Jay

Ox Fanzine #42: My German is a little rusty, so I barely skimmed the articles/interviews, but this looks like a high-quality music mag. There's lots packed into these pages, just what you'd expect from a punk mag: interviews with bands *Rocket from the Crypt*, *The Stereo*, *Queens of the Stoneage*, *Boy Sets Fire*, *Spitfire*, *Rogers Glücksfree* - and that's just a fraction - plus artist *Derek Hess*; tons and tons of music reviews, including bands from all over; reviews of zines, comics, films, shows, and toilets; columns; recipes; funny comic strips; and lots of music news. Comes with a comp cd of a variety of punk styles, a mix of English and German. If you're German fluent and into punk, I'm sure you're reading this already. If not, what's stopping you? *Joachim Hiller, PO Box 10 22 25, D-42766 Haan, Germany*, www.ox-fanzine.de [7,50 DM in Germany, \$5 worldwide via surface mail 156M :15] -Jerianne

Permission #11 (Summer 2001): "You are who you say you are." This is a wonderful collection of interviews and music/book reviews, bracketed by a road trip through Nevada, which winds through Las Vegas, the Hoover Dam, and a fascinating bit of Americana called "Guru Road." Our guide, *Laura Sensabaugh*, accompanies the telling with evocative and cleverly cropped pictures. The photos and writing are engaging and personal, if a bit hip and precious. Interviews are with the bands *eX-Girl* and *Olive*, Hollywood writer/director/producer *Kenny Golde*, poet *Michelle Tea*, designer *FoxyXina*, musician *Daniel Cartier*, girl-about-town *Pauley Perrette*, and design theorist *Don Norman*. The four pages of ads are for goth clothing and sex, *PETA* and "Bobblee, the urban backpack." If you're on the fence after that description, I'd say go for it - the road trip story alone is worth a read. Slick and barcoded, printed in Thailand. *240 N. Virgil Ave. #211, Los Angeles CA 90004*, info@permissionmagazine.com, www.permissionmagazine.com [\$3.95, \$18 for 6 US 52M :75] -Jacque

Scram #14: With the energy of the rock 'n roll music it covers, this magazine creates an exciting, intelligent, and fun reading experience. Peeling back the slick, full-color cover one finds features about *The Dictators*, late '60's prettyboy teendream *Sajid Khan*, *Walker, Texas Ranger* and failed amusement parks. Also included is an interview with *Nikki Corvette* and a psychological probe of convict literature. Quality coverage; quality writing. *Kim Cooper, PO Box 461626, Los Angeles CA 90046-1626*, scram@scrammagazine.com, www.scrammagazine.com [\$5 US, \$8 overseas 50M 1:55] -John

WORD Of MOUTH

Here's where zine publishers and readers can really give each other a hand. Support the zine community, by telling us what you know! Please send us your comments — pro and con — about *anything* related to vendors and venues for self-published works. We're interested in your experiences with zine stores, mail orders, and distributors; print shops; deadbeat zines, etc.

We're also very interested in expanding this section of the zine, to include comments on dealing with the Post Office and other shippers; and we're looking for your experiences with do-it-yourself printing, including suggestions about equipment and supplies — or anything else that seems vaguely apropos to the sort of things we're always on about here. Please drop us a line!

Please send your comments to Lynne Lowe, PO Box 20028, Santa Barbara CA 93120 or email her at javat@silcom.com.

Comments may be edited, and are always printed anonymously unless you specifically ask us to use your name. Note: In this section, anything in "quotes" is said by zine publishers, readers, store staff, etc. — *not* by this publication.



DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT!

There are plenty of other publications out there that review zines. In *Zine World* #18, we'll print our list of known review zines. If you know one that wasn't included in our last list (see #15) or on our website, please drop us a line at PO Box 330156, Murfreesboro TN 37133-0156 or jerianne@undergroundpress.org.

MAILORDER DISTRIBUTORS, ONLINE, STORES

***OCCULTURE DISTRIBUTION, PO Box 8830, Victoria, BC V8W 3S3, Canada, Tel: 250-884-8164, Fax: 250-413-3110, occulture@shaw.ca, www.occulture.net — "They will do a great job distributing your mag all over Canada and then never pay you! Not one cent! Then they will ignore your calls and e-mails when you try to get your money. #1 asshole on my list."

DISAGREE with an opinion here? Have your own comments — positive or negative — to add? Contact Lynne.

ZINES & PUBLISHERS

"I never got the zine I ordered from Damp Laundry, Delfina V., 30 Third Ave. #909, Brooklyn NY 11217. I sent them the \$1 they wanted back in May, then followed up on that in September. They've never responded in any way, so either they're dead or they ripped me off for a whole dollar. (Okay — maybe they moved. I just don't know.)"

"I send off an order to this address last week, and it came back today stamped 'not deliverable as addressed, unable to forward': Rocket Queen, PO Box 64, Asheville NC 28802"

We've recently had mail returned from these zines:

Beer Frame, Paul Lukas, 160 Saint John's Place, Brooklyn NY 11217 — "Return to sender. Unable to forward."

Electric Third Rail, Joe Gallo, 3018 Mission St. #20, San Francisco, CA 94102 — "Return to sender. Unable to forward."

Music Geek, Box 84152, Phoenix AZ 85471 — "Box closed, no order. Return to sender."

Perezvon Plays Dead, Daniel, 219 First Ave N. #C, Seattle WA 98109 — "Unable to forward. Return to sender."

ORDER A ZINE months ago and never receive it? Tell us about deadbeats and zines that aren't on the level.

MISCELLANEA

"I was in Office Max today making some copies and they had a laminated flyer taped to the machines that said that if they noticed any of their customers copying suspicious material they would report them to the authorities and that the employees had the right to ask you for your ID if they thought you were up to no good... Gee whiz, it sure is going to be fun living in a police state, isn't it?" — Eric Lyden, Fish With Legs

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 2002 Alternative Press Expo will be held 12 to 6 p.m. February 9 and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. February 10 at the Herbst Pavilion at the Fort Mason Center in San Francisco. Last year, APE attracted more than 2,700 attendees, making it the largest small press, alternative, and self-published comics show in the country. In addition to the wide array of exhibitors, APE will feature workshops and guest speakers, including Jeff Smith (Bone). For more information, visit www.comic-con.org/pages/APE2002wn.html or write to PO Box 128458, San Diego CA 92112-8458.

Beantown Zinetown returns to Massachusetts College of Art this year on March 30 and 31st, the first two-day Beantown. While specific plans are still being made and will depend on attendee interest and participation, the event will involve the standard big room full of tables for zinesters to sell and network during both days; satellite rooms for talks and workshops; a spoken word/performance show Saturday night; and possibilities of pre- and post-parties and other fun. Anyone interested in proposing workshops, acts, or other activity and those looking to reserve table space, offer advice, or ask questions should email richmackin@richmackin.org, write to PO Box 890, Allston MA 02134, or call (617) 587-8639. An email list can be joined by emailing BeantownZinetown-subscribe@yahoo.com. Visit richmackin.org for more info. The

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Regarding checks & money orders

Sorry, we can't take checks. Zine World is not a business, and like most non-mainstream publications, we don't have a bank account. We cannot afford to pay exorbitant fees for bounced checks. Please send well-wrapped American cash, stamps IRCs, or money orders with "pay to the order of" left blank.

Massachusetts College of Art is located at 621 Huntington Avenue, Boston.

The 7th annual Bay Area Anarchist Book Fair will be held March 30, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., in Kezar Pavillion in Golden Gate Park. For more information, contact The Book Fair, c/o Bound Together Books, 1369 Haight St., San Francisco CA 94117.

The Museum of Comic and Cartoon Art (MOCCA) Festival, for Comic and Cartoon Artists, Lovers and Fans, is June 23, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., in the Puck Building, 293 Lafayette St., New York City. All entry proceeds will benefit MOCCA. If you are interested in exhibiting, sponsoring, covering and/or attending, please visit www.moccany.org/events.html for further information. If you have questions, e-mail MOCCAaf@aol.com or call the MOCCA Art Festival hotline at 212-696-7945.

The 5th annual Santa Barbara Zine Fest will be June 1 at the Goleta Valley Community Center, 5679 Hollister Avenue, Goleta, CA. Registration packets will be available March 15th. The registration fee is \$15.00 and includes: half-table space, beverages, an exhibitor's "survivor" kit, and admission for two people. For more information write to Lynne Lowe at lynne@javaturtle.com or PO Box 20028, Santa Barbara, CA 93120 or visit www.javaturtle.com/zinefest.html.

Planning has begun for the Portland Zine Symposium 2002. The actual date and location will be announced when it becomes available. Expect a weekend chock full of workshops, zine trading and selling, networking, meeting new and interesting people, and more. For more info, contact PO Box 14332, Portland OR 97293, portlandzinesymposium@hotmail.com, www.micropublishing.com.

Everyone loves a good comic-con. Here's where to find one, perhaps, near you:

- MegaCon, Feb. 22-24, 2002, Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida, www.megaconvention.com, beth@megaconvention.com.
- AggieCon, March 21-24, Memorial Student Center, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, more info at aggiecon.tamu.edu, cephheid@msc.tamu.edu.
- AtlantaCon, April 12-14, 2002, Atlanta, Georgia, more info at www.atlantacomicon.com, atlantacomicon@atlantacomicon.com.
- Pittsburgh Comicon, April 26-28, 2002, Pittsburgh Expomart, Monroeville, Pennsylvania, more info at www.pittsburghcomicon.com.

GOT THE LOWDOWN on an upcoming event? Give us the info and we'll share it here. Listings are free. Have you been to a recent zine-related event? Tell us how it went, what you got out of it, and any suggestions you have for event organizers.

MORE "Address Changes"

- Roadside - Sarah O, 2028 SE 44th Ave, Portland OR 97215
- Slow Wave - Jesse Reklaw, PO Box 11493, Berkeley CA 94712-2493
- Smitten Kitten Zine and Distro - Kristy, PO Box 1179, Blackburn North, VIC 3130, Australia, smittenkitten@ozemail.com.au, <http://tbns.net/smittenkitten>
- Starfiend Distro - Jenn, 988 Fulton St. #213, San Francisco CA 94117
- Stuff - Paul Houston, 3811 NE 7th, Portland OR 97212, phouston46@hotmail.com
- Ten Foot Rule/Modern Industry - Shawn Granton, 3719 SE Hawthorne Blvd #243, Portland OR 97214
- Their Old Stuff Is Better - 175 Malcolm Ave. SE, Minneapolis MN 55414-3501
- Unemployed Entomologist - PO Box 541396, Waltham MA 02454
- Vis-a-septic - Teresa Robinson, Box 2401, Porterville CA 93270
- we ain't got no car! - jack saturn, PO Box 3824, Portland OR 97208
- The Whirligig - Frank J. Marcopolos, 4809 Ave. N #117, Brooklyn NY 11234
- White Buffalo Gazette - Larned Justin, PO Box 471, House Springs MO 62051
- Who is Johnny Cash? - L. McNamara, PO Box 543, Hatfield MA 01038
- The Wiggly Reader - John Kerschbaum, Fontanelle Press, PO Box 15, Corona NY 11368
- Wishbone - Bunnigrrrl, PO Box 1098, Grover Beach CA 93483, www.wishbonezine.com
- XYZed - 6 Haig St., St. Catharines ON L2R 6K5, Canada
- Zen Baby - Christopher Robin, PO Box 1611, Santa Cruz CA 95061
- Zine World: A Reader's Guide to the Underground Press - PO Box 330156, Murfreesboro TN 37133-0156

CLASSIFIEDS

• *Classifieds are absolutely free*, for any do-it-yourself or out-of-the-mainstream project. Send us up to 50 words describing what you're up to, and we'll print your listing and include it on our website. Limit one listing per person, please.

• If your announcement is so important you can't possibly describe it within our rather generous free listing limits, try harder. **FIFTY WORDS MAXIMUM**. If you exceed the word limit, we'll cut you off mid-sentence or reject your listing outright, depending on space limitations and the publisher's mood.

• We reserve the right to edit or refuse any listing that sounds illegal or is not in keeping with the general spirit of underground camaraderie. And unless you're only advertising a website, we ask that you include *real world* contact information for people who aren't Net Connected – which includes most of our readers. Other

than that, the only catch is that we have to draw the line and say "no more listings" when our pages are full. This hasn't happened yet, but it's probably a good idea to send your listings early.

• Free listings for subscribers are repeated in every issue for as long as your subscription runs (and of course, you may change your listing at any time). Free listings for non-subscribers must be re-submitted for each issue. Bracketed number after most listings indicates the last issue listing will appear. For example, if it says [17] after your listing, you need to get in touch with us *now* to renew your listing.



Please send your listing to:

Zine World – Classifieds, PO Box 330156, Murfreesboro TN
37133-0156 or jerianne@undergroundpress.org



BOOKS

ANTI MODERN FOUNDATION – Worried about the future? Do you dare to be different? Can you think for yourself? Then read *The Resurrection of Aristocracy* by Rudolph C. Evans. Price \$12.95. Breakout Productions Inc. For a copy of a review and more information, write to *R.C. Evans, 8 Cliff Avenue, Hempstead NY 11550*. [17]

THE BLACK BOOK, all-new 5th Edition, is now available. This is the ultimate reference guide to all things kinky in North America – sex clubs, sex toys, fetish wear, dungeon furniture, on and on and on. Contact info for all: gay, straight, bi, swingers, transvestites, every specific kink you can imagine and plenty you can't. Price: \$20 postpaid, age statement required, from *Black Books, Box 31155-H, San Francisco CA 94131*. [19]

MAKE A ZINE! – Bill Brent's definitive guide to self-publishing disguised as a book on

how to produce your own zine! This is the first book to completely address the nuts and bolts of zine-making in detail. Budgeting, reducing burnout, creativity and inspiration, working with contributors, zine history, how to do interviews, paper, photography, postage, photocopying and printing options, and where to sell your zine. Special sections devoted to sex zines, queer zines, and electronic publishing on the World Wide Web. Packed with hundreds of useful tips, a huge appendix of resources and an index. Indispensable to those producing a zine! For everyone else, it's a behind-the-scenes survey of what **ARG** is all about. \$12 postpaid in the U.S. *Black Books, Box 31155-H, San Francisco CA 94131*. [19]

THE REVISED 3RD EDITION of Resources for Radicals, an annotated bibliography of print resources for those involved in movements for social transformation, is now available. Most of the new additional material focuses on globalization, pacifism and masculinity in violence, but a smorgasbord of resources is examined. The price (including postage and handling) is: \$12 Canada, \$13 U.S. (U.S. funds), \$15 worldwide (U.S. funds). Cheques

should be made payable to Toronto Action for Social Change. Orders should be sent to: *Toronto Action for Social Change, PO Box 73620, 509 St. Clair Ave. West, Toronto, Ontario M6C 1C0, Canada*. [17]



CONNECTIONS

– WRITERS –
– ARTISTS –
– PUBLISHERS –
WANTED

COME OUT, wherever you are! Queer zines needed for review in *We The People* (N. Ca. GLBT paper, circ. 15,000). Send zines and clear order info to *Heather Seggel, 3585 Cazadero Hwy., Cazadero CA 95421-9667*. Lesbian/feminist work especially wanted. I'll send tear sheets; you'll get new readers. Thank you! [18]

DIY FILM GUIDE is looking for films and film-oriented zines to review. If you would like to be interviewed send along the DIY thing you do and I'll be in contact. Issue 1 includes interviews, reviews, articles, advice, contacts, and inspiration. Send to: *Shane, 2010 SW 7th Ave., Largo FL 33770*. [17]

THE FLYWHEEL ZINE LIBRARY

is accepting donations of all kinds of zines. Volunteer-run and governed by consensus, Flywheel believes that art and information should be equally accessible and affordable to all people. Donations to: *Flywheel Zine Library, 2 Holyoke Street, Easthampton MA 01027*. www.flywheelarts.org. [17]

GOT A FREE ZINE (any style) that you want help distributed? I can do that for you. Got a flyer you want distributed? I can do that as well. I do tons of mail and love to help out zines! Send as many flyers and zines as you want to: *Metal Rules! Magazine, 2116 Sandra Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043 USA* and I will get them out for you! Jeff, metalfef@yahoo.com, www.metalrulesmagazine.com. [17]

THE HUNGOVER GOURMET is looking for writers! Share your tales of food, drink, travel and fun. Write us at *Box 42, Doylestown, PA 18901* or visit hungovergourmet.com for info about upcoming issues. Issues 1-4 available for trade or \$2 each ppd. [17]

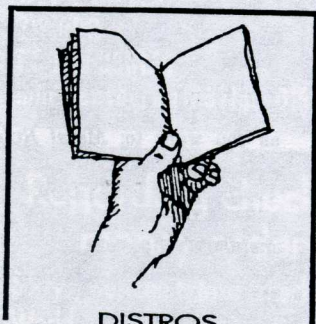
MAINLY A REVIEW ZINE... always looking for new material to review. Covers

music (cd, vinyl, cd-r, cd-rw, cassette, and minidisk formats), zines, books, etc. Comes out quarterly. \$2 US or \$3 int'l. *face first zine*, 740 Signal Hill Rd., Dresher PA 19025, 215-641-0634. [17]

A MULTITUDE OF VOICES is currently accepting submissions of illustration, writing, and music. To have your works considered for publication or to check out a copy, please write to: *Matt Holdaway*, 1945 B Berryman St., Berkeley CA 94709. [17]

Share your **DIRTY CHILDHOOD SECRETS** for *Retail Who* zine's "Juvenile Sex Romps Issue"! Send true stories (poetry, essays, letters, comics) about kissing cousins, playing "doctor," etc. These aren't supposed to be dirty stories - just memoirs! Contact *Retail Who*, 5741 N. Ridge, Apt. 3NE, Chicago IL 60660 or *retailwho_re@hotmail.com*. [17]

WORDS BREAK BARS - A zine editor's prison resource guide. Now compiling a list of prison restrictions & tips. Prisoners: Send yer institution's restrictions on printed stuff. Zinesters: Send tips & personal experiences on sending yer zine to the big house. *Janice Flux*, PO Box 1607, Santa Cruz CA 95060. [17]



DISTROS

FIVE MINUTE ROMANCE zine distro is a non-profit DIY mailorder company running out of Philadelphia, PA, dedicated to getting the whole world to check out your zine, record, clothing, stickers, or any other project that you can do. While we mostly carry zines and a few records, we accept any type of DIY project for submission. To check out the

catalog, visit www.geocities.com/fiveminuteromance, fiveminuteromance@punkhardcore.com. [17]

GRUB - SMALL DISTRO carrying plenty of personal, some political, and a few music zines; plus a bunch of punk/hardcore/ska/indie music, satirical stickers, political & cute pins, and misc items. Email or send one stamp for a catalog. *Franco*, 400 Park Rd, Parsippany NJ 07054-1737, grubrecords@yahoo.com, <http://grubrecords.i85.net>. [17]

HOW2 DISTRO carries practical & inspirational, DIY guides to actively pursuing more independent, self-sufficient, & empowering lifestyles. For a catalog send 2 stamps to PO Box 14523, Richmond, VA 23221 or email How2distro@hotmail.com. Also, How2 Zine is looking for submissions of the same nature. [18]

SNAKE HANDLERS ZINE DISTRO is committed to introducing zines to people unaware of their existence. We are a person - to - person distributor and travel to local events, festivals and concerts to set up shop. Please send your zine for consideration: *Snake Handlers*, 110 #2 W. Force St., Valdosta GA 31601 USA [17]

STARFIEND DISTRO is always accepting projects for consideration. I'm looking for all types of zines (except those with exclusively music content), spoken word tapes, videos, crafts, etc. the catalog is online at www.starfiend.com. For a print catalog send 2 stamps to *jenn/starfiend*, 988 Fulton St #213, San Francisco CA 94117. [17]

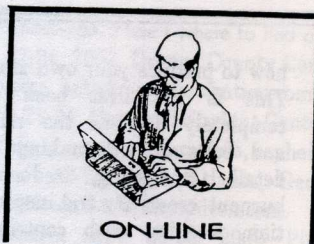
VOX POPULIS DISTRO: Zines, comix & DIY craft. <http://vox.i85.net>. PO Box 253, Roselands NSW 2196, Australia. [17]

GROUPS & PROJECTS
GIRLS WRITE NOW, a non-profit organization, is looking for women writers in all genres of writing, to help lead monthly workshops and mentor teenage girls who are interested in

pursuing careers in writing, or would just like to advance their writing skills. *Girls Write Now*, c/o Elana Gartner, PO Box #115, 358 7th Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11215. For info on LA: *Keren Taylor*, (323) 402-1222 Mailbox #5850. www.girlswritenow.org. [17]

INDEPENDENT PUBLISHING RESOURCE CENTER

a non-profit art center dedicated to zines, book arts, and letterpress, has a growing zine library with more than 3,000 items cataloged. Zines are cataloged and listed online (www.iprc.org). We'd love to add your publication to our collection. Donate your zine to *IPRC*, 917 SW Oak St. #218, Portland OR 97205. [17]



ANARCHIST LIBRARIANS? The *Street Librarian* web page features links to radical library resources, alternative publishers' pages, zine and comics-related materials, infoshops, ethnic pages, mail art info and other seditious fun. Dig for book and film reviews, regularly updated "zine-ography," and "Brain Farts": www.geocities.com/SoHo/Cafe/7423. [17]

BOOKMOUTH.COM - Books are great. It's the industry that sucks. Features interviews with authors and publishers doing cool things in the independent publishing scene, as well as The Get The Word Out Project, a collection of essays and interviews which spotlight information on how to promote your independent project. www.bookmouth.com [17]

CHECK IT OUT, the web has it's own eclectic source for all that is rad in your world. *FrictionMagazine.com* is essential if you want to break out of boring media. Culture, Politics, Music, Art, Literature, Sports

... you name it, it's on *FrictionMagazine.com*. For more, visit <http://frictionmagazine.com>, or email info@frictionmagazine.com. [17]

CHECK OUT RALPH HASELMANN JR.'s Lucid Moon Poetry Magazine -The Website every month for new poems, interviews, short stories and artwork! *Lucid Moon* is a hybrid between a personal site and a monthly magazine! New poems from myself and up and coming and famous authors each month! www.lucidmoonpoetry.com. Send submissions to ralphy@lucidmoonpoetry.com or *Ralph Haselmann Jr*, 67 Norma Road, Hampton NJ 08827. [18]

E-ZINE AND ZINE RESOURCE CENTER

This free guide includes a guide to publicizing your ezine, zine editor interviews, a resource guide with more than 100 links to zine resources, and tons of articles about the history and creation of zines. Point your Web browser to <http://zinebook.com>. [18]

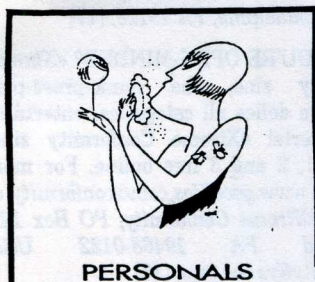
FROM THE ASHES - ezine/print zine - www.bigbrother.net/~mugwump/fromtheashes - print zine \$1 or trade - *Christopher Blosser*, 123-60 83rd Ave. 3J Kew Gardens NY 11415, email mugwump@bigbrother.net. [17]

GREAT NOVELS by great authors! Visit *Fine Line Publishing* at www.Fine-LinePC.com for some of the best books by independent authors on the market today! [17]

ZINE WRITERS / READERS wanted for *Zine Scene* - Join the zine resource everyone's talking about. *Zine Scene* is a free resource to list your zine's contact information and to meet other people with common interests, a love for zines and independent publications! Check it out @ <http://www.addam.com>. Join the revolution! [18]

ZINESTERS LOOKING FOR more exposure for their stuff need to get over to www.dimestoreproductions.com. Not

only do we review zines online and in our print magazine, **Obscurity Unlimited**, we also run an artist/writer find service for those looking for contributors. Check it out! Lots to look at. Also check out: <http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/obscurityunlimited>. [17]



MISSING PEOPLE! If you know the current whereabouts of Loki Quinangelis (Bummers & Gummers), Dave McCullough (Sirloin Slinger), or Phil (2% Homogenized), please write to Zine World. [17]

SEEKING ZINES, BOOKS and/or articles on "Reiki," the ancient healing art. I wish to correspond with anyone who has been trained in Reiki. Contact: Lou Sullo Jr., 3000 Bronx Park East #17-B, Bronx NY 10467. [20]



DO YOU WANT TO LEARN how to set up your own radio station, conduct interviews, record events, create and digitally edit content for radio programs, achieve an understanding and use of internet audio streaming/webcasting, distribute audio files and programs/music via the internet, and much more? Free Radio Berkeley IRATE (International Radio Action Training Education) is offering the following broadcasting skills workshops. They will repeat on a monthly basis. All workshops will take place on a Saturday beginning at 1 PM and will last 3-4 hours. Location is FRB's facility in

West Berkeley - 2547 8th Street, Unit #24 (between Parker and Dwight, enter through Bay #3). A suggested sliding scale donation of \$10-\$25 is requested per workshop. [19]

SERVICES RENDERED

WANT FREEDOM AND PRIVACY? Professional mail forwarding service (maildrop). Secret street address for your mail, sent to you discreetly. Confidentiality guaranteed. Pseudonyms accepted. Avoid sensitive information leaks! Service information and rates: James, Box 92058-UP, Brossard, QC J4W 3K8, Canada. [17]



RARE SEED CATALOG: Thousands of hard-to-find seeds from every continent. Finest ornamentals from tropical rain forest to alpine snowline. Wildflowers, trees, medicinal herbs, annual & perennial flowers, heirloom vegetables. Catalog: \$1 J.L. Hudson, Star Route 2, Box 337-Z, La Honda CA 94020. [19]

WANTED: Old skateboard-themed zines, back issues of Sty, and back issues of Fishbowl perzine. jtmjsr@aol.com. [20]



BIG UN, the Very Rich Hours of David Tristman: Big UN features the autobiographical writings and cartoons of David

Tristman. Each issue features some of his many obsessions which range from sock monkeys to Zen to triple x videos. Lavishly illustrated black and white w/full color cover, 8.5" x 5.5". Issues 3-6 now available. Approx. 20 pages each. \$3/issue (cash only). Add \$1 outside USA. Adults only, w/ age statement! PO Box 1186, New York, NY 10276. [19]

DWELLING PORTABLY in tent, dome, wickiup, van, trailer, etc. Emphasizes comfort, simplicity, low cost. Readers tell what works and what doesn't. Since 1980. Sample \$1, 6 issues for \$5. PO Box 190-ARG, Philomath OR 97370. [19]

EMPTY LIFE COMICS. No ads, no profits, no readers, no cares. Since 1995, I've been drawing to stay sane. It's kind of a ritual. I make up stories or jokes or just drop crazy pictures from out my unconscious. www.emptylife.com, Mike Tolento, PO Box 20028, Santa Barbara CA 93120. [17]

ERASER CARVERS QUART-

ERLY is an arts digest that will be of interest to rubber stampers, linoleum-block and wood-block carvers, stencil cutters and lots of curious folks just like you! Subscribe now - 4 issue subscription, \$10; sample copy, \$3. Also, **Make Your Own Rubber Stamps...** From Erasers?, 16-page how-to booklet, \$5; **The Portraiture of Tim Mancusi**, 20-page booklet of figurative erasercuts, \$5. Cash, checks or money orders payable to **Mick Mather, PO Box 222, Clay NY 13041-0222**. [17]

GET A MINI-COMIC — FREE! Send me your name and address, and I'll send you a mini-comic sampler of my **Brain Food** comic books with ordering info for the actual issues. What a deal! **Mike Toft, Free Lunch Media, PO Box 7246, Minneapolis, MN 55407, miketoft@usfamily.net** [18]—

THE GOTHIK APA

is a quarterly publication for fans of Vertigo and alternative/independent comic books, science fiction, fantasy, horror and related areas. \$10 membership fee covers mailing



EVERYBODY'S A CRITIC



This is a volunteer-produced publication, and we're always looking for more volunteers. If you like what we're doing, please help us do it better!

We need reviewers, reporters, researchers, artists, typists, clerical help, proofreaders, friends with photocopiers, friends with money and friends with stamps — whatever skills or assets you have to offer, we can and will put to good use.

If you're a reliable, responsible person with lots of enthusiasm about zines and DIY culture, please drop us a note! Or if anyone reading this wants to start a new review zine, hey, the more voices the better! We don't want to be "the definitive guide" to anything. If you'd like helpful hints from someone who's been there, just get in touch.

ZW:ARG, PO Box 330156, Murfreesboro TN
37133-0156, USA

Jerianne@UndergroundPress.org,
www.UndergroundPress.org



costs of the APA. Sample issues are \$2. More info? SASE to Tamara Hodge, 1020 Harris Ave, Oklahoma City OK 73107. <http://gothikapa.tripod.com>. [17]

IF YOU'RE LOOKING for a spaced out avant-garde zine about everything else, sea of slime #5 is for you. Send two stamps or a fair trade to: Mayhem, c/o Sean Subliminal, PO Box 2133, Pflugerville, TX 78691-2133 USA. [17]

IMAGINE: A JOURNAL OF ANARCHISM - Interested in how to incorporate anarchism in your daily life? How about atheism? Then send for a free sample to John Johnson, P.O. Box 8145, Reno, NV 89507. [18]

IN 1997, I published a zine that implicated local government in one grotesque farce after another. Sure, this is a dated critique, but Universe of Truancy STILL kicks "democracy" right in its goldbricking ass. "Highly recommended" - Doug Holland. \$1 to Susan, PMB 265, 4230 East Towne Blvd, Madison WI 53704. [20]

KAIRAN IS A FORUM, open to anyone who wants to share his/her opinions on mail art & networking. Articles, interviews, project reports, mail art ABC, etc. We need contributions! \$2 or 2 IRCs to Gianni

Simone, 3-3-23 Nagatsuta, Midori-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan [18]

"THE LUMMOX JOURNAL is the best monthly magazine in the small press" - Lindsay Wilson, (Unwound Magazine). \$20 gets you 13 issues or \$2 gets a sample: LummoX, c/o PO Box 5301, San Pedro CA 90733-5301.

<http://home.earthlink.net/~lumoxraindog>. [17]

MONROE! GARLAND! NIXON! ALI! Muggers, corrupt cops, humor and more! All in the autobiographical Hey Cabby - A New York Cab Driver's Million miles Behind the Wheel. "This is excellent stuff ... wonderful," says Zine World. \$5.95 to Evan Ginzburg, PO Box 640471, Oakland Gardens Station, Flushing NY 11364. [19]

MUUNA TAKEENA, the painfully honest review zine from Finland. Each issue comes with multilingual supplement, in which there are zines from all over the world reviewed in their own language. Otherwise written in English. Sample copy: trade to your product (in which case your product is reviewed in the next issue of MT) or to chocolate or to used stamps or to non-sport trading cards. Easy!

Talvipäivänseislaus Prod., Timo Palonen, Hepokuja 6 B 26/FIN-01200 VANTAA,

FINLAND. [19]

THE RANDY REVIEWER: Reviews (and art samples!) of that most neglected of genres, XXX comicbooks! Get issue #14 for only \$4.00 (and an age statement) Mention seeing this in ARG and we'll include our full catalogue as well. Make checks out to Jabberwocky Graphix, Box 165246, Irving, TX 75016. [19]

RAT BLOOD SOUP. Satire | Essays | Funny shit. www.ratbloodsoup.com. PO Box 26098, Philadelphia, PA 19128. [17]

THINK YOU'RE OPEN-MINDED? eXtreme Conformity zine, the comic-prose-play fiction zine defies all categories, entertains and subverts! eXtreme Conformity zine, episodes 1, 2 and 3 free online. For more info, visit www.geocities.com/xconformity or write to eXtreme Conformity, PO Box 122, Royersford PA 19468-0122 USA, xconformity@yahoo.com. [17]

WE DON'T CARE what zines you buy, what beer you like, how you got through that thing last year, if you think we're pompous or funny as hell. The Inner Swine: Fiction. Commentary. Bad Poems. \$2/trade to Jeff Somers, PO Box 3024, Hoboken NJ 07030, www.innerswine.com. [18]

WHO DOESN'T LOVE Comethus, Dishwasher, Pathetic Life, or any of those classic personal zines? I certainly do. But I've been publishing Mr. Peebody's Soiled Trousers & Other Delights for over three years now and it's still not even half as good as them. See for yourself. Send \$2 to Jason Koivu, PO Box 931333, Los Angeles, CA 90093. [18]

WHO WILL PAY THE ROYALTIES for the Voices in my Head? This ain't Bukowski - but I've paid my dues! wino-poems short poems trannie fuck wish poems concrete poetry! I've been everywhere - are you butch enough for these poems? All you need is a lot of mental instability and \$5. PO Box 1611, Santa Cruz CA 95061 [18]

A WIDE VARIETY OF FREE and cheap zines are available for YOU from Timelike Line Productions (Timeliketoons). Plus, you can also have your work featured in a new non-review review zine. For more details write: Yul Tolbert, P.O. Box 02222, Detroit, MI 48202-9998. Or e-mail: yul_tolbert@hotmail.com. Or visit the Timeliketoon web site at: www.timeliketoons.tripod.com/genx.html. [19]

Did we mention that these listings are FREE??? Everyone has something to promote or something they're looking for - send in your 50-word or less listing today to: Zine World - Classifieds, PO Box 330156, Murfreesboro TN 37133-0156 or jerianne@undergroundpress.org.

ZINE PUBLISHERS' COUPON

Please clip or photocopy this form, fill it out, and staple it to your zine's back cover. Or list your zine's vital stats on a separate piece of paper and staple that to your zine's back cover, before sending to ZW:ARG. It'll make our lives a whole lot easier. Thanks!

ZINE'S TITLE:

ISSUE#:

EDITOR OR PUBLISHER'S
NAME OR NON DE PLUME:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE or
PROVINCE:

ZIP or
POSTCODE:

NATION:

SINGLE-COPY POST-PAID PRICES:

You'll get more orders if you clearly list a price!

- to American addresses: _____
- to Canadian addresses: _____
- to Mexican addresses: _____
- to other addresses: _____

For zines published outside of North America:

- to addresses in your country: _____
- other pricing information: _____

- Does your zine accept trades? ☐ Yup. ☐ Nope.
- Is your zine free to prisoners? ☐ Yup. ☐ Nope.
- Is your zine available on cassette? ☐ Yup (Price: \$ _____). ☐ Nope.
- Does your zine require an age statement? ☐ Yup. ☐ Nope.

- Got e-mail? _____
- Got a website? _____

send to: ZW:ARG, PO Box 330156, Murfreesboro TN 37133-0156, USA

• If you'd like two reviews of your zine, just send us two copies.

We usually don't have time to mail reminders, so if you've enjoyed reading ZW:ARG, now is the time to subscribe, or pre-pay for our next issue. Please see ordering information at the beginning of the zine. Thanks!

U. S. P O S T A L R A T E S

NEW RATES (yes, AGAIN!) – effective July 7, 2001 – simplified and charted

Rates for mailing within U.S.			Rates for mailing from U.S. to Canada			Rates for mailing from U.S. to Mexico		
WEIGHT UP TO:	FIRST CLASS	"MEDIA MAIL" ⁽¹⁾	WEIGHT UP TO:	LETTER POST ⁽⁴⁾	ECONOMY MAIL ⁽⁵⁾	WEIGHT UP TO:	LETTER POST ⁽⁴⁾	ECONOMY MAIL ⁽⁵⁾
½ oz.	\$0.21	–	½ oz.	\$0.50	–	½ oz.	\$0.50	–
1 oz.	\$0.34	–	1 oz.	\$0.60	–	1 oz.	\$0.60	–
2 oz.	\$0.57	–	2 oz.	\$0.85	–	2 oz.	\$0.85	–
3 oz.	\$0.80	–	3 oz.	\$1.10	–	3 oz.	\$1.25	–
4 oz.	\$1.03	–	4 oz.	\$1.35	–	4 oz.	\$1.65	–
5 oz.	\$1.26	–	5 oz.	\$1.60	–	5 oz.	\$2.05	–
6 oz.	\$1.49	\$1.33	6 oz.	\$1.85	–	6 oz.	\$2.45	–
7 oz.	\$1.72	\$1.33	7 oz.	\$2.10	–	7 oz.	\$2.85	–
8 oz.	\$1.95	\$1.33	8 oz.	\$2.35	–	8 oz.	\$3.25	–
9 oz.	\$2.18	\$1.33	12 oz.	\$3.10	\$2.70	12 oz.	\$4.00	–
10 oz.	\$2.41	\$1.33	16 oz.	\$3.75	\$2.70	16 oz.	\$5.15	\$4.35
11 oz.	\$2.64	\$1.33	20 oz.	\$4.40	\$4.05	20 oz.	\$6.30	\$5.15
12 oz.	\$2.87	\$1.33	24 oz.	\$5.05	\$4.55	24 oz.	\$7.45	\$5.95
13 oz.	\$3.10	\$1.33	28 oz.	\$5.70	\$5.05	28 oz.	\$8.60	\$6.70
14 oz.	\$3.33	\$1.33	32 oz.	\$6.35	\$5.60	32 oz.	\$9.75	\$7.50
15 oz.	\$3.56	\$1.33	36 oz.	\$7.00	\$6.00	<div>TO CALL THE P.O.</div> <div>24-hour answer-line: (800) 222-1811, then "O" (They are very polite and helpful!)</div> <div>or, to wade through their website: www.usps.com.</div>		
1 pound	\$3.49	\$1.33	40 oz.	\$7.65	\$6.40			
2 lbs.	\$3.95 ⁽²⁾	\$1.78	44 oz.	\$8.30	\$6.80			
3 lbs.	⁽³⁾	\$2.23	48 oz.	\$8.95	\$7.20			
4 lbs.	–	\$2.68	52 oz.	\$9.65	\$7.60			
5 lbs.	–	\$3.13	56 oz.	\$10.65	\$8.00			
add'l lbs.	–	+\$0.45 ea.	60 oz.	\$11.05	\$8.40			

Rates from U.S. to the rest of the world						
WEIGHT UP TO:	"GROUP 3" ⁽⁶⁾		"GROUP 4" ⁽⁶⁾		"GROUP 5" ⁽⁶⁾	
	AIR	ECON.	AIR	ECON.	AIR	ECON.
½ oz.	\$0.70	–	\$0.70	–	\$0.70	–
1 oz.	\$0.80	–	\$0.80	–	\$0.80	–
2 oz.	\$1.60	–	\$1.70	–	\$1.55	–
3 oz.	\$2.40	–	\$2.60	–	\$2.30	–
4 oz.	\$3.20	–	\$3.50	–	\$3.05	–
5 oz.	\$4.00	\$3.80	\$4.40	\$4.05	\$3.80	–
6 oz.	\$4.80	\$3.80	\$5.30	\$4.05	\$4.55	–
7 oz.	\$5.60	\$3.80	\$6.20	\$4.05	\$5.30	\$4.95
8 oz.	\$6.40	\$3.80	\$7.10	\$4.05	\$6.05	\$4.95
12 oz.	\$7.55	\$3.80	\$8.40	\$4.05	\$7.65	\$4.95
16 oz.	\$8.70	\$3.80	\$9.70	\$4.05	\$9.25	\$4.95
20 oz.	\$9.85	\$4.45	\$11.00	\$4.70	\$10.85	\$5.70
24 oz.	\$11.00	\$5.10	\$12.30	\$5.35	\$12.45	\$6.50
28 oz.	\$12.15	\$5.70	\$13.60	\$6.00	\$14.05	\$7.30
32 oz.	\$13.30	\$6.30	\$14.90	\$6.65	\$15.65	\$8.10
36 oz.	\$14.50	\$6.90	\$16.25	\$7.25	\$17.35	\$8.75
40 oz.	\$15.70	\$7.50	\$17.60	\$7.85	\$19.05	\$9.40
44 oz.	\$16.90	\$8.10	\$18.95	\$8.45	\$20.75	\$10.05
48 oz.	\$18.10	\$8.70	\$20.30	\$9.05	\$22.45	\$10.70

INTERNATIONAL MAIL RATES HAVE BEEN DIVIDED INTO FIVE "GROUPS" OF COUNTRIES.

Canada is "Group 1"; Mexico is "Group 2"; Western Europe, Northern Europe, the U.K., and Israel are "Group 3"; Australia, New Zealand, and Japan are "Group 4"; and the rest of this wide world we all call home has been designated as "Group 5."

NOTES:

1. This is the new "book rate," but zines qualify, too. You're not supposed to include any paid advertisements or personal notes (invoices are okay), but if your package looks and feels like books or pamphlets, odds are nobody's going to check. Envelope should be marked "Media Mail." Allow 3 to 5 weeks for delivery.
2. The P.O. has a nifty red, white & blue mailer called the 2-pound Flat Rate Envelope. You can stuff it to bursting, and it costs the 2-pound rate (Priority Mail, \$3.95), no matter how much it weighs.
3. Higher weights carry different rates by destination. Call the P.O. for details.
4. A.K.A. "Air Mail."
5. A.K.A. "Surface Mail." There is no longer a special "printed matter" rate. Mark your envelope "Economy Mail," and allow 2 to 4 weeks for delivery.
6. The P.O. has conveniently divided the rest of the world into new "groups" for our mailing pleasure. See list above to find out which group you are mailing to. For "Economy Mail," mark your envelope as such and allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.